

Senate Bill 384

By: Senators Hatchett of the 50th, Goodman of the 8th, Burns of the 23rd, Echols of the 49th, Williams of the 25th and others

**AS PASSED SENATE**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12 and Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to motor vehicle emission inspection and maintenance and motor  
3 vehicles and traffic, respectively, so as to provide for an optional five-year motor vehicle  
4 registration and revalidation for certain motor vehicles; to provide for the submission of  
5 certificates of emission inspection for such five-year motor vehicle registrations; to authorize  
6 electronic notice in certain instances; to prohibit credits or refunds of registration fees; to  
7 provide for fees for five-year registration decals for prestige and specialty license plates; to  
8 provide for the submission of certificates of emission inspections to the Department of  
9 Revenue; to authorize the adoption of rules and regulations; to revise and provide for  
10 definitions; to provide for conforming changes; to provide for related matters; to provide for  
11 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

13 **SECTION 1.**

14 Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
15 motor vehicle emission inspection and maintenance, is amended in Code Section 12-9-45,  
16 relating to certificate of emission inspection, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

17 "(b) A certificate of emission inspection shall be valid for one inspection term. The owner  
18 of each responsible motor vehicle subject to subsection (a) of this Code section is required  
19 to obtain a new certificate of emission inspection on or before the date the current  
20 certificate of emission inspection expires or prior to the ~~vehicle registration date~~ conclusion  
21 of the registration period, as such term is defined in Code Section 40-2-21, in the year  
22 following the expiration of the certificate, as determined by the board."

23

## SECTION 2.

24 Said article is further amended in Code Section 12-9-51, relating to emission inspection  
25 required for motor vehicle registration, operation without registration, and improper reuse,  
26 by revising subsection (a) as follows:

27 "(a) Beginning July 1, 1992, it shall be unlawful for any county to and no county shall  
28 register any responsible motor vehicle subject to any requirement under Code Section  
29 12-9-45 pursuant to or subject to the requirements of Chapter 2 of Title 40 without proof  
30 of a valid certificate of emission inspection issued pursuant to Code Section 12-9-48  
31 indicating that such responsible motor vehicle satisfied all applicable requirements of Code  
32 ~~Section~~ Sections 12-9-45 and Code Section 12-9-48. In applying for a motor vehicle  
33 registration for a responsible motor vehicle subject to any requirement under Code Section  
34 12-9-45, the application shall be accompanied by proof of the issuance of a certificate of  
35 emission inspection issued pursuant to Code Section 12-9-48. A valid certificate of  
36 emission inspection shall be submitted during each inspection term of a five-year motor  
37 vehicle registration. Any county which registers any responsible motor vehicle without  
38 proof of a certificate of emission inspection or fails to suspend a five-year registration of  
39 a responsible motor vehicle without proof of a certificate of emission inspection during an  
40 inspection term shall be in violation of this article."

41 **SECTION 3.**

42 Said article is further amended in Code Section 12-9-55, relating to prohibited acts,  
43 registration of vehicle by county without proof of inspection, penalty, and withholding of  
44 funding, by revising subsection (i) as follows:

45 "(i) If it is determined that any county has registered responsible motor vehicles or failed  
46 to suspend a five-year registration of responsible motor vehicles without receiving proof  
47 from the owners that the responsible motor vehicles satisfy all applicable requirements of  
48 Code Sections 12-9-45 and 12-9-48, the director shall notify the commissioner of  
49 transportation that such an unlawful act has occurred. Upon such notification, the State  
50 Transportation Board may at its discretion withhold Department of Transportation funding  
51 assistance from any such county."

52 **SECTION 4.**

53 Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic, is  
54 amended in Code Section 40-1-9, relating to electronic notifications and communications by  
55 Department of Revenue, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

56 "(b.1)(1) Notice required by the department upon an owner for failure to comply with  
57 emission inspection certification requirements pursuant to Code Section 40-2-137 shall  
58 be satisfied by electronic means when:

59 (A) The owner has elected to register his or her vehicle for a term of five years; and  
60 (B) The department provides notifications and communications electronically to the  
61 owner 30 days, 20 days, and ten days prior to the date of any suspension.

62 (2) The department shall provide for notice of the use of electronic notifications and  
63 communications authorized by this subsection at the time of registration and in a  
64 statement which reads:

65 'BY ELECTING A FIVE-YEAR VEHICLE REGISTRATION, YOU AGREE TO  
66 RECEIVE ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

67 RELATING TO FAILURE TO SUBMIT REQUIRED EMISSIONS INSPECTION  
68 CERTIFICATION AND ANY POSSIBLE MOTOR VEHICLE SUSPENSION THAT  
69 MAY RESULT FROM SUCH FAILURE."

70 **SECTION 5.**

71 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-1, relating to definitions relative to  
72 registration and licensing of motor vehicles, by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

73 "(3.3) 'Eligible motor vehicle' means a motor vehicle for which required state and local  
74 ad valorem taxes have been paid in accordance with the alternative ad valorem tax set  
75 forth Code Section 48-5C-1. Such term shall not include a commercial motor vehicle or  
76 an alternative fueled vehicle, as such term is defined in paragraph (7) of subsection (l) of  
77 Code Section 40-2-86.1."

78 **SECTION 6.**

79 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

80 "40-2-10.1.  
81 In no case shall an owner be entitled to a credit or refund for any payment of fees for a  
82 registration issued under this chapter upon the cancellation, termination, transfer,  
83 suspension, or revocation of such registration or upon the removal of a license plate for any  
84 other reason from a vehicle registered in this state."

85 **SECTION 7.**

86 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-20, relating to registration and  
87 license requirements, certificate of registration and temporary operating permit, and two-year  
88 registration option for new motor vehicles, as follows:

89 "40-2-20.

90 (a)(1)(A) Except as ~~provided in subsections (b) and (d) of otherwise provided in this~~  
91 Code section and subsection (a) of Code Section 40-2-47, every owner of a motor  
92 vehicle, including a tractor or motorcycle, and every owner of a trailer shall, during the  
93 owner's registration period ~~in each year~~, register such vehicle as provided in this chapter  
94 and obtain a license plate or revalidation decal to operate it ~~for the 12-month period~~  
95 until such person's next registration period.

96 (B)(i) The purchaser or other transferee owner of every new or used motor vehicle,  
97 including tractors and motorcycles, or trailer shall register such vehicle as provided  
98 in Code Section 40-2-8 and obtain or transfer as provided in this chapter a license to  
99 operate it for the period remaining until such person's next registration period which  
100 immediately follows such initial registration period, without regard to whether such  
101 next registration period occurs in the same calendar year as the initial registration  
102 period or how soon such next registration period follows the initial registration period;  
103 provided, however, that this registration and licensing requirement does not apply to  
104 a dealer which acquires a new or used motor vehicle and holds it for resale. ~~The~~  
105 ~~commissioner may provide by rule or regulation for one 30-day extension of such~~  
106 ~~initial registration period which may be granted by the county tag agent if the~~  
107 ~~transferor has not provided such purchaser or other transferee owner with a title to the~~  
108 ~~motor vehicle more than five business days prior to the expiration of such initial~~  
109 ~~registration period. The county tag agent shall grant an extension of the initial~~  
110 ~~registration period when the transferor, purchaser, or transferee can demonstrate by~~  
111 ~~affidavit in a form provided by the commissioner that title has not been provided to~~  
112 ~~the purchaser or transferee due to the failure of a security interest or lienholder to~~  
113 ~~timely release a security interest or lien in accordance with Code Section 40-3-56.~~

114 (ii) No person, company, or corporation, including, but not limited to, used motor  
115 vehicle dealers and auto auctions, shall sell or transfer a motor vehicle without

116 providing to the purchaser or transferee of such motor vehicle the last certificate of  
117 registration on such vehicle at the time of such sale or transfer; provided, however,  
118 that, in the case of a salvage motor vehicle or a motor vehicle which is stolen but  
119 subsequently recovered by the insurance company after payment of a total loss claim,  
120 the salvage dealer or insurer, respectively, shall not be required to provide the  
121 certificate of registration for such vehicle; and provided, further, that in the case of a  
122 repossessed motor vehicle or a court ordered sale or other involuntary transfer, the  
123 lienholder or the transferor shall not be required to provide the certificate of  
124 registration for such vehicle but shall, prior to the sale of such vehicle, surrender the  
125 license plate of such vehicle to the commissioner or the county tag agent by personal  
126 delivery or by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery for cancellation.

127 ~~(C) Upon application for renewal of a vehicle registration, the county tag agent may~~  
128 ~~issue a temporary operating permit for any vehicle that fails to comply with applicable~~  
129 ~~federal emission standards, provided that the owner of such vehicle has provided~~  
130 ~~verification of the existence of minimum motor vehicle liability insurance coverage and~~  
131 ~~paid all applicable taxes, penalties, insurance lapse fees, and fees other than the~~  
132 ~~registration fee. Such temporary operating permit shall be valid for 30 days and shall~~  
133 ~~not be renewable.~~

134 (2) An application for the registration of a motor vehicle may not be submitted separately  
135 from the application for a certificate of title for such motor vehicle, unless a certificate  
136 of title has been issued in the owner's name, such title has been applied for in the owner's  
137 name, or the motor vehicle is not required to be titled. An application for a certificate of  
138 title for a motor vehicle may be submitted separately from the application for the  
139 registration of such motor vehicle.

140 (b) Subsection (a) of this Code section shall not apply:

141 (1) To any motor vehicle or trailer owned by the state or any municipality or other  
142 political subdivision of this state except to the extent provided by Code Section 40-2-37;

- 143 (2) To any tractor or three-wheeled motorcycle used only for agricultural purposes;  
144 ~~(2.1)~~(3) To any vehicle or equipment used for transporting cargo or containers between  
145 and within wharves, storage areas, or terminals within the facilities of any port under the  
146 jurisdiction of the Georgia Ports Authority when such vehicle or equipment is being  
147 operated upon any public road not part of The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of  
148 Interstate and Defense Highways by the owner thereof or his or her agent within a radius  
149 of ten miles of the port facility of origin and accompanied by an escort vehicle equipped  
150 with one or more operating amber flashing lights that are visible from a distance of 500  
151 feet;
- 152 ~~(3)~~(4) To any trailer which has no springs and which is being employed in hauling  
153 unprocessed farm products to their first market destination;
- 154 ~~(4)~~(5) To any trailer which has no springs, which is pulled from a tongue, and which is  
155 used primarily to transport fertilizer to a farm;
- 156 ~~(5)~~(6) To any electric powered personal transportation vehicle;
- 157 ~~(6)~~(7) To any moped; or
- 158 ~~(7)~~(8) To any golf car.
- 159 ~~(c) Any person who fails to register a new or used motor vehicle as required in subsection~~  
160 ~~(a) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof,~~  
161 ~~shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$100.00.~~
- 162 ~~(d) Upon the payment of the requisite fee, the purchaser of a new motor vehicle which is~~  
163 ~~a passenger car, for which such purchaser has paid state and local title ad valorem taxes,~~  
164 ~~may choose to register such passenger car for an initial period of two years instead of the~~  
165 ~~annual registration provided for in this Code section, provided that the motor vehicle owner~~  
166 ~~does not elect a prestige or special license plate. Thereafter, such passenger car shall be~~  
167 ~~subject to the annual registration requirements of this Code section.~~
- 168 (c) On and after July 1, 2027, an owner of an eligible motor vehicle who has complied  
169 with all other requirements of this chapter shall be authorized to register or renew a

170 registration for such eligible vehicle annually or for a period of five years. In addition to  
171 the applicable license fee set forth in Code Section 40-2-151, an owner of an eligible motor  
172 vehicle with a prestige or special license plate shall pay any applicable registration renewal  
173 fees for such license plate. Any owner of an eligible motor vehicle who elects a five-year  
174 registration and revalidation decal shall not be relieved of any applicable emission  
175 inspection certification requirements under Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12.

176 (d) Upon application for renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the county tag agent shall  
177 be authorized to issue a temporary operating permit for any vehicle that fails to comply  
178 with emission inspection certification requirements under Article 2 of Chapter 9 of  
179 Title 12, provided that the owner of such vehicle has provided verification of the existence  
180 of minimum motor vehicle liability insurance coverage and paid all applicable taxes,  
181 penalties, insurance lapse fees, and fees other than the registration fee. Such temporary  
182 operating permit shall be valid for 30 days and shall not be renewable.

183 (e) The commissioner shall be authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as may  
184 be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Code section and the issuance of five-year  
185 registrations and revalidation decals."

186

### SECTION 8.

187 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-21, relating to registration periods, by  
188 adding a new paragraph to subsection (a) and revising subsection (b) as follows:

189 "(.01) 'Eligible motor vehicle registration term' means every fifth registration period for  
190 an owner of an eligible motor vehicle who elects a five-year revalidation decal option."

191 "(b) The owner of every vehicle registered in the previous calendar year shall register  
192 renew such registration and obtain a license to operate such vehicle with a revalidation  
193 decal not later than the last day of the owner's registration period for an annual motor  
194 vehicle registration or the last day of an eligible motor vehicle registration term for a  
195 five-year motor vehicle registration."

196

**SECTION 9.**

197 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-34, relating to reports and remittances by  
198 tag agents, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

199 "(g) The commissioner shall be authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as may  
200 be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Code section and the distribution of funds  
201 relating to the issuance and renewal of annual and five-year motor vehicle registrations and  
202 the disbursement of funds relating to any special license plates issued by the department."

203

**SECTION 10.**

204 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-42, relating to transfer of license plates  
205 and revalidation decals, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

206 "(b) The commissioner shall provide by rules and regulations appropriate procedures  
207 whereby, upon the payment of a fee of \$5.00, and, upon preparation and filing of an  
208 appropriate application therefor, currently valid ~~annual and five-year~~ license plates and  
209 revalidation decals shall be transferred from one vehicle to another vehicle of the same  
210 class of which ownership is acquired following that person's or those persons' ceasing to  
211 own or operate on the public roads the vehicle for which such plate was originally issued  
212 and during the initial registration period for the acquired vehicle. If such acquired vehicle  
213 is of a different class than the vehicle no longer owned or operated by such person, he or  
214 she shall submit the license plate currently issued to him or her for cancellation and, upon  
215 payment of any additional fee for registering such acquired vehicle, the commissioner shall  
216 issue a new license plate to such person for use on such acquired vehicle. License plates  
217 and revalidation decals may be transferred in accordance with the provisions of this  
218 subsection at any time after issuance or renewal thereof and until the expiration of the  
219 period for which issued."

220 **SECTION 11.**

221 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-60, relating to prestige license plates, by  
222 revising subsection (a) as follows:

223 "(a) Motor vehicle owners who are residents of Georgia, upon complying with the motor  
224 vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and, except as provided  
225 in subsection (c) of this Code section, upon the payment of a fee of \$35.00 in addition to  
226 the regular motor vehicle registration fee, shall be issued special personalized prestige  
227 license plates by the commissioner. Special personalized license plates issued pursuant to  
228 this Code section shall be subject to an additional annual registration fee of \$35.00 as a  
229 condition of obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of  
230 \$175.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate,  
231 ~~which fee~~ The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent  
232 at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as  
233 provided in Code Section 40-2-34."

234 **SECTION 12.**

235 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-60.1, relating to standardized  
236 administrative process for special license plates, designs, fees, and application process, by  
237 revising paragraph (5) of subsection (c) as follows:

238 "(5) 'Special license plate renewal fee' means ~~a \$35.00 fee~~ the fee required to be paid at  
239 the time a special license plate is renewed and a revalidation decal is issued. For an  
240 annual revalidation decal, such fee shall be \$35.00 and for a five-year revalidation decal,  
241 such fee shall be \$175.00."

242 **SECTION 13.**

243 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-61, relating to license plates for  
244 U.S. Senators and Congressmen, state constitutional officers, Speaker of the House of

245 Representatives, Justices of Supreme Court, Judges of Court of Appeals, and Public Service  
246 Commission members, as follows:

247 "40-2-61.

248 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'state constitutional officer' means the Governor,  
249 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State School Superintendent,  
250 Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture, or Commissioner of Labor.

251 (b) The commissioner shall design and issue distinctive license plates to each United  
252 States Senator and Congressman elected from the State of Georgia, each state constitutional  
253 officer, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each Justice of the Supreme Court  
254 and each Judge of the Court of Appeals, and each member of the Public Service  
255 Commission to be placed on such official's personal motor vehicle. Each such distinctive  
256 license plate shall indicate the individual's elected office and no county name decal need  
257 be affixed to such plate as required pursuant to Code Section 40-2-9. The special license  
258 plate authorized by this Code section shall be issued to such elected official upon  
259 application and payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00 and upon compliance with the  
260 state laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and shall be transferred  
261 as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. Distinctive license plates issued pursuant to this  
262 Code section shall be renewed annually, and revalidation decals shall be issued upon  
263 compliance with the laws relating to registration and licensing and upon payment of subject  
264 to an additional annual registration fee of \$35.00 which shall as a condition of obtaining  
265 an annual revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of \$175.00 as a condition of  
266 obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate. The fee required by this  
267 Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time for collection of other  
268 registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. For  
269 purposes of this Code section, the term 'state constitutional officer' means the Governor,  
270 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State School Superintendent,  
271 Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture, or Commissioner of Labor."

272

**SECTION 14.**

273 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-62, relating to license plates for  
274 current and former members of the General Assembly, as follows:

275 "40-2-62.

276 The commissioner shall mail special and distinctive license plates printed for members of  
277 the General Assembly and former members of the General Assembly who are hereby  
278 deemed to have emeritus status after having served in the General Assembly eight or more  
279 years to the local tag agent in the counties wherein such members or former members  
280 reside on or before the owner's registration period each year. Such special and distinctive  
281 license plates shall be issued only upon applications made to the local tag agent and  
282 payment of a \$25.00 manufacturing fee. License plates may be issued by the local tag  
283 agent upon a proper application and in accordance with the terms of this chapter. License  
284 plates issued pursuant to this Code section need not contain a place for the county name  
285 decal as required pursuant to Code Section 40-2-9, and no county name decal need be  
286 affixed to a license plate issued pursuant to this Code section. Special and distinctive  
287 license plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be ~~renewed annually, and~~  
288 ~~revalidation decals shall be issued upon compliance with the laws relating to registration~~  
289 ~~and licensing and upon payment of~~ subject to an additional annual registration fee of  
290 \$35.00 ~~which~~ as a condition of obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an additional  
291 registration fee of \$175.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for  
292 such license plate. The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the county  
293 tag agent at the time for collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the  
294 state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The special license plates issued pursuant to  
295 this Code section shall be transferred to another vehicle as provided in Code Section  
296 40-2-80."

297

**SECTION 15.**

298 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-63, relating to license plates for  
299 sheriffs, as follows:

300 "40-2-63.

301 The commissioner shall mail to the local tag agents special and distinctive license plates  
302 for the elected sheriffs in the counties of this state on or before the owner's registration  
303 period of each sheriff. The sheriffs shall make application with the local tag agent and  
304 shall pay a fee of \$25.00. Special sheriffs' license plates issued pursuant to this Code  
305 section shall be ~~renewed annually, and revalidation decals shall be issued upon compliance~~  
306 ~~with the laws relating to registration and licensing and upon payment of an additional~~  
307 ~~registration fee of \$25.00 which~~ subject to an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00  
308 as a condition of obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of  
309 \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate.  
310 The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time  
311 of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code  
312 Section 40-2-34. License plates shall be issued by the local tag agents upon proper  
313 application and in accordance with the terms of Article 2 of this chapter. Only one special  
314 and distinctive license plate shall be issued to each elected sheriff; however, a sheriff may  
315 choose to use the sheriff's distinctive license plate either on the law enforcement vehicle  
316 assigned to such sheriff or on his or her personal vehicle."

317

**SECTION 16.**

318 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-64, relating to license plates for honorary  
319 consuls, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

320 "(a) Honorary consuls shall be issued license plates as prescribed in Code Section 40-2-31  
321 in duplicate for use on their official or private passenger automobiles, upon application and  
322 compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relative to the registration and licensing of

323 motor vehicles, payment of the regular license fees for license plates as provided by law,  
324 payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, and payment of an additional annual registration  
325 fee of \$25.00 ~~which fee~~ as a condition of obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an  
326 additional registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation  
327 decal for such license plate. The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the  
328 county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted as  
329 provided in Code Section 40-2-34, ~~shall be issued license plates as prescribed in Code~~  
330 ~~Section 40-2-31 in duplicate for use on their official or private passenger automobiles.~~  
331 Such license plates shall be fastened to both the front and the rear of the vehicle. No more  
332 than two sets of honorary consular corps license plates shall be issued to any country. Such  
333 plates shall not be used by any person after his or her appointment has ended."

334

**SECTION 17.**

335 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-64.1, relating to license plates for official  
336 representatives of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representatives Office, by revising  
337 subsection (b) as follows:

338 "(b) Upon application and compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to the  
339 registration and licensing of motor vehicles and the payment of any registration fees,  
340 including the \$25.00 manufacturing fee and the \$35.00 special license plate fee ~~or the~~  
341 ~~\$35.00 special license plate renewal fee, as applicable,~~ official representatives of the Taipei  
342 Economic and Cultural Representatives Office in the United States who maintain a  
343 presence in Georgia shall be issued Foreign Organization license plates as prescribed in  
344 Code Section 40-2-31 in duplicate. License plates issued pursuant to this Code section  
345 shall be subject to an additional annual registration fee of \$35.00 as a condition of  
346 obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of \$175.00 as a  
347 condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate. The fee  
348 required by this Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of

349 collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code  
350 Section 40-2-34. Such license plates shall be fastened to both the front and the rear of the  
351 vehicle."

352 **SECTION 18.**

353 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-65, relating to license plates for active and  
354 retired reservists and certain members of the National Guard, by revising subsection (a) as  
355 follows:

356 "(a)(1) Motor vehicle owners who are assigned or attached members of troop program  
357 units of any branch of the active reserve components of the United States inside or  
358 outside the State of Georgia shall be eligible to receive free motor vehicle license plates  
359 for private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation. Motor  
360 vehicle owners who are members of any National Guard unit in a state adjoining the State  
361 of Georgia and for whom there is no National Guard unit in the county of their residence  
362 shall be eligible to receive free motor vehicle plates for private passenger cars,  
363 motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation to identify such vehicle owner as  
364 a reservist. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle  
365 laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of  
366 this chapter. No person shall be entitled to more than one free motor vehicle license plate  
367 for any calendar year; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee  
368 provided for in Code Section 40-2-151 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a reservist  
369 shall be entitled to receive one additional such license plate. For each additional license  
370 plate for which an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual  
371 registration fee of \$25.00, ~~which fee~~ as a condition of obtaining an annual revalidation  
372 decal or an additional registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year  
373 revalidation decal for such license plate. The fee required by this paragraph shall be  
374 collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and

375 shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. Additional words or  
376 symbols in addition to numbers and letters prescribed by law shall be inscribed upon such  
377 license plates so as to identify distinctively the owner as a member of one of the  
378 following branches of the United States military reserve: Army, Navy, Marines, Air  
379 Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard. The commanding officer of each active reserve  
380 component program unit or the adjutant general of the National Guard unit of each  
381 neighboring state shall, upon request of any reserve member or National Guard member  
382 of that unit, respectively, furnish to that member approved documentation supporting the  
383 member's current membership in the respective reserve or National Guard unit. This  
384 documentation shall be presented ~~annually~~ to the tax commissioner of the county in  
385 which the reserve member or National Guard member applies for the special license plate  
386 under this Code section ~~and upon subsequent reregistration for each succeeding year.~~

387 (2) Motor vehicle owners who are retired from any branch of the active reserve  
388 components whose active reservists are eligible to obtain free motor vehicle license plates  
389 under paragraph (1) of this subsection, upon application for license plates and upon  
390 compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of  
391 motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of this chapter, shall be issued, free of  
392 charge, a license plate as prescribed in that article for private passenger cars, motorcycles,  
393 or trucks used for personal transportation. Each such retired member shall be entitled to  
394 no more than one such free plate for any calendar year; provided, however, that, upon  
395 payment of the regular license fee provided for in Code Section 40-2-151 and a  
396 manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a retired member shall be entitled to receive one additional  
397 such license plate. For each additional license plate for which an initial \$25.00 fee was  
398 required, there shall be an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00, ~~which fee as a~~  
399 condition of obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of  
400 \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate.  
401 The fee required by this paragraph shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time

402 of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in  
403 Code Section 40-2-34. The license plates issued pursuant to this paragraph shall, in  
404 addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by law, be identical to those issued  
405 pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection to members of the branch of the active  
406 reserve component from which that person retired. The commanding officer of each  
407 active reserve component program unit shall, upon request of any retired reserve member  
408 from that unit, furnish to that retired member approved documentation supporting the  
409 retired member's current retired membership status from that reserve unit. This  
410 documentation shall be presented to the tax commissioner of the county in which the  
411 retired reserve member applies for the special license plate under this Code section.  
412 (3) The license plates issued pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection shall contain  
413 the word 'RETIRED' in the location of and in lieu of the name of the county of issuance."

414 **SECTION 19.**

415 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-66, relating to license plates for active and  
416 retired members of the Georgia National Guard, by revising paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
417 subsection (a) as follows:

418 "(a)(1) Motor vehicle owners who are members of the Georgia National Guard, upon  
419 application for license plates and upon compliance with the state motor vehicle laws  
420 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of  
421 this chapter, shall be issued, free of charge, a license plate, as prescribed in that article for  
422 private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation. Each  
423 member of the Georgia National Guard shall be entitled to no more than one such free  
424 plate at a time; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee provided  
425 for in Code Section 48-10-2 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member shall be  
426 entitled to one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate for which  
427 an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual registration fee of

428 ~~\$25.00 which fee~~ as a condition of obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an additional  
429 registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for  
430 such license plate. The fee required by this paragraph shall be collected by the county  
431 tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the  
432 state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. Additional words or symbols, in addition to  
433 the numbers and letters prescribed by law, shall be inscribed upon such license plates so  
434 as to identify distinctively the owner as a member of the Georgia National Guard. The  
435 adjutant general of Georgia shall, upon request of any member of that National Guard  
436 unit, furnish to that member approved documentation supporting the member's current  
437 membership in that National Guard unit. This documentation shall be presented ~~annually~~  
438 to the tax commissioner of the county in which the National Guard member applies for  
439 the special license plate under this Code section ~~and upon subsequent reregistration for~~  
440 ~~each succeeding year.~~

441 (2) Motor vehicle owners who are retired members of the Georgia National Guard, upon  
442 application for license plates and upon compliance with the state motor vehicle laws  
443 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of  
444 this chapter, shall be issued, free of charge, a license plate as prescribed in that article for  
445 private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation. Each  
446 retired member of the Georgia National Guard shall be entitled to no more than one such  
447 free plate at a time; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee  
448 provided for in Code Section 48-10-2 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member shall  
449 be entitled to one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate for  
450 which an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual registration  
451 fee of \$25.00 ~~which fee~~ as a condition of obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an  
452 additional registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation  
453 decal for such license plate. The fee required by this paragraph shall be collected by the  
454 county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted

455 to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The license plates issued pursuant to  
 456 this paragraph shall, in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by law, be identical  
 457 to those issued pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection. The adjutant general of  
 458 Georgia shall, upon request of any member retired from that National Guard unit, furnish  
 459 to that retired member approved documentation supporting the member's retired  
 460 membership status in that National Guard unit. This documentation shall be presented  
 461 ~~annually~~ to the tax commissioner of the county in which the retired National Guard  
 462 member applies for the special license plate under this Code section ~~and upon subsequent~~  
 463 ~~reregistration for each succeeding year."~~

464

### SECTION 20.

465 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-67, relating to license plates for state  
 466 commanders of nationally chartered veterans' organizations, by revising subsection (a) as  
 467 follows:

468 "(a) The state commanders of nationally chartered veterans' organizations shall be issued  
 469 license plates as prescribed in Code Section 40-2-31 for use on their official or private  
 470 passenger automobiles, upon application and compliance with the state motor vehicle laws  
 471 relative to the registration and licensing of motor vehicles, upon payment of the regular  
 472 license fees for license plates as provided by law, and upon the payment of an additional  
 473 initial fee of \$25.00 and an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 ~~which fee as a~~  
 474 condition of obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of  
 475 \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate.  
 476 The fee required by this subsection shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time  
 477 of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted as provided in Code Section  
 478 ~~40-2-34, shall be issued license plates as prescribed in Code Section 40-2-31 for use on~~  
 479 ~~their official or private passenger automobiles, upon which,.~~ For a license plate issued  
 480 under this Code section, in lieu of the numbers prescribed by ~~said Code section~~, Code

481 Section 40-2-31, there shall be such figures or symbols indicative of the office held by such  
482 individuals as may be prescribed by the commissioner."

483 **SECTION 21.**

484 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-81, relating to license plates for  
485 members of the Georgia State Defense Force, as follows:

486 "40-2-81.

487 (a) For purposes of this Code section, the term 'Georgia State Defense Force' means that  
488 organization established pursuant to Part 3 of Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 38.

489 (b)(1) Motor vehicle and trailer owners who are members of the Georgia State Defense  
490 Force shall be eligible to receive special and distinctive vehicle license plates for private  
491 passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, or recreational vehicles used for personal  
492 transportation. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor  
493 vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in  
494 Article 2 of this chapter.

495 (2)(A) Motor vehicle and trailer owners who are members of the Georgia State  
496 Defense Force shall be issued, upon application for and upon compliance with the state  
497 motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, a Georgia  
498 State Defense Force member license plate. One such license plate shall be issued  
499 without the requisite registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee.

500 (B) Each member of the Georgia State Defense Force shall be entitled to no more than  
501 one such free license plate at a time; provided, however, that, upon payment of a  
502 manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member shall be entitled to one additional such license  
503 plate. For each additional license plate for which a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is  
504 required, there shall be an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 which fee as a  
505 condition of obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of  
506 \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate.

507 The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at the  
508 time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided  
509 in Code Section 40-2-34.

510 (c) The commissioner shall design a Georgia State Defense Force member license plate.  
511 The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to  
512 enforce compliance with all state license laws relating to the use and operation of private  
513 passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, and trailers before issuing these license plates in lieu  
514 of the regular Georgia license plates. ~~The manufacturing fee for such special and~~  
515 ~~distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00.~~ The commissioner is specifically authorized to  
516 promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure compliance in instances where  
517 such vehicles have been transferred or sold. ~~Such~~ Except as provided in subsection (e) of  
518 this Code section, such plates shall be nontransferable.

519 (d) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of  
520 this chapter for private passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, and trailers used for personal  
521 transportation. Such plates shall contain such words or symbols, in addition to the numbers  
522 and letters prescribed by law, so as to identify distinctively the owners as members of the  
523 Georgia State Defense Force.

524 (e) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section may be transferred between  
525 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80.

526 ~~(f) Special license plates issued under this Code section, except as provided in~~  
527 ~~subparagraph (b)(2)(A) of this Code section, shall be renewed annually with a revalidation~~  
528 ~~decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31 without payment of an additional \$25.00 annual~~  
529 ~~registration fee.~~

530 ~~(g)~~ Should a member of the Georgia State Defense Force who has been issued a license  
531 plate or license plates be discharged or otherwise separated from the Georgia State Defense  
532 Force, the member shall forward his or her Georgia State Defense Force member license  
533 plate or plates to the commissioner along with a certificate to the effect that such person

534 has been discharged or otherwise separated from the Georgia State Defense Force, and  
535 thereupon the commissioner shall issue a regular license plate, at no additional charge, to  
536 such former member of the Georgia State Defense Force to replace the Georgia State  
537 Defense Force member plate or plates."

538 **SECTION 22.**

539 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-84, relating to license plates for Purple  
540 Heart recipients, by revising subsection (e) as follows:

541 "(e) For each additional special license plate issued under this Code section there shall be  
542 an additional ~~\$25.00~~ annual registration fee which fee of \$25.00 as a condition of obtaining  
543 an annual revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of  
544 obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate. The fee required by this  
545 Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other  
546 registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34."

547 **SECTION 23.**

548 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-85, relating to license plates for veterans  
549 who survived attack on Pearl Harbor, by revising subsection (e) as follows:

550 "(e) Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be ~~renewed annually with~~  
551 ~~a revalidation decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31. It shall be a requirement that a~~  
552 ~~county name decal shall be affixed and displayed on license plates issued under this Code~~  
553 ~~section~~ subject to an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 as a condition of obtaining  
554 an annual revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of  
555 obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate. The fee required by this  
556 Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other  
557 registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34."

558

**SECTION 24.**

559 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-85.1, relating to license plates for certain  
560 veterans, by revising subparagraph (b)(2)(B) and subsections (e.1) and (f) as follows:

561 "(B) Each member or former member of the armed forces of the United States listed  
562 in this subsection shall be entitled to no more than one such free license plate at a time;  
563 provided, however, that, upon payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member  
564 shall be entitled to one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate  
565 for which a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is required, there shall be an additional annual  
566 registration fee of \$25.00, and such fee as a condition of obtaining an annual  
567 revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of  
568 obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate. The fee required by this  
569 subparagraph shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other  
570 registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34."

571 ~~"(e.1)(f)~~ The spouse of any person eligible to be issued a special license plate under this  
572 Code section shall also be eligible for such license plate, provided that no motor vehicle  
573 is registered in the name of the eligible person and all other requirements relating to  
574 registration and licensing relative to motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this  
575 chapter have been satisfied.

576 ~~(f)(g)~~ Special license plates issued under this Code section, except as provided in  
577 subparagraph (b)(2)(A) of this Code section, shall be ~~renewed annually with a revalidation~~  
578 ~~decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31 without payment of an additional \$25.00 annual~~  
579 ~~registration fee~~ subject to an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 as a condition of  
580 obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of \$125.00 as a  
581 condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate. The fee  
582 required by this Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of  
583 collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code  
584 Section 40-2-34."

585

**SECTION 25.**

586 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-85.2, relating to license plates for veterans  
587 of the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, by revising subsection (e) as follows:

588 "(e) Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be ~~renewed annually with~~  
589 ~~a revalidation decal, as provided in Code Section 40-2-31, without payment of an~~  
590 ~~additional \$25.00 annual registration fee~~ subject to an additional annual registration fee of  
591 \$25.00 as a condition of obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an additional registration  
592 fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license  
593 plate. The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at  
594 the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided  
595 in Code Section 40-2-34.

596 (f) Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be transferred between  
597 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80."

598

**SECTION 26.**

599 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-85.3, relating to license plates for Gold  
600 Star family members, by revising subsections (d) through (g) as follows:

601 "(d) Any motor vehicle owner who is a resident of Georgia, other than one registering  
602 under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with state laws relating to  
603 registration and licensing of motor vehicles shall be issued such a special license plate upon  
604 application therefor. ~~Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed~~  
605 ~~annually with a revalidation decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31.~~ Upon payment  
606 of all ad valorem taxes and other fees due at registration of a motor vehicle, an eligible  
607 family member may apply for a Gold Star license plate. In order to qualify as an eligible  
608 family member for purposes of this Code section, the person must be related to the fallen  
609 service member as a spouse, mother, father, sibling, child, stepparent, or surviving spouse  
610 of such service member's sibling. ~~Up to two free license plates shall be allowed for any~~

611 ~~eligible family member and they may purchase additional license plates for each motor~~  
612 ~~vehicle they register in this state. If a Gold Star license plate is lost, damaged, or stolen,~~  
613 ~~the eligible family member must pay the reasonable cost, to be established by the~~  
614 ~~department, but not to exceed the cost of other specialty license plates, to replace the Gold~~  
615 ~~Star license plate~~ An eligible family member shall be entitled to no more than two free  
616 license plates at a time; provided, however, that an eligible family member shall be entitled  
617 to additional license plates upon payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00. For each  
618 additional license plate for which a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is required, there shall be an  
619 additional annual registration fee of \$35.00 as a condition of obtaining an annual  
620 revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of \$175.00 as a condition of obtaining  
621 a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate. The fee required by this Code section  
622 shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees  
623 and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

624 (e) Whether a service member is deemed to have been killed in action shall be determined  
625 by the classification of death as listed by the United States Department of Defense and may  
626 be verified from documentation directly from the Department of Defense.

627 (f) Free Gold Star license plates shall be issued only to eligible family members who  
628 resided in Georgia at the time of the death of the service member. ~~However,;~~ provided,  
629 however, that an eligible family member who was not a resident of Georgia at the time of  
630 the death of the service member ~~may purchase a Gold Star license plate, at a cost to be~~  
631 ~~established by the department, not to exceed the cost of other specialty license plates~~ shall  
632 be entitled to such license plate upon payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00.

633 (g) ~~Renewal decals shall be issued at no cost to any person that received a free license~~  
634 ~~plate under the provisions of this Code section upon the payment of ad valorem taxes and~~  
635 ~~other registration fees, provided that the renewal is applied for on or within 30 days prior~~  
636 ~~to the renewal date of the eligible person. If the eligible person fails to renew within such~~  
637 ~~time, he or she shall pay a standard renewal fee and be subject to the standard penalties for~~

638 ~~late payment of ad valorem taxes due on the motor vehicle~~ A special license plate issued  
639 to an eligible family member pursuant to this Code section shall be issued the required  
640 revalidation decal at no cost. Any special license plate issued pursuant to this Code section  
641 for a fee shall be subject to an additional annual registration fee of \$35.00 as a condition  
642 of obtaining an annual revalidation decal or an additional registration fee of \$175.00 as a  
643 condition of obtaining a five-year revalidation decal for such license plate. The fee  
644 required by this Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of  
645 collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code  
646 Section 40-2-34."

647 **SECTION 27.**

648 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-86, relating to license plates promoting  
649 or supporting certain agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations with proceeds disbursed to  
650 the general fund and the agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation, by revising subparagraph  
651 (a)(1)(C) as follows:

652 "(C) 'Special license plate renewal fee' means ~~a \$35.00 fee~~ the fee required to be paid  
653 at the time a revalidation decal is issued for a special license plate. For an annual  
654 revalidation decal, such fee shall be \$35.00 and for a five-year revalidation decal, such  
655 fee shall be \$175.00."

656 **SECTION 28.**

657 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-86.1, relating to license plates promoting  
658 or supporting certain agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations or issued to qualified motor  
659 vehicles or owners with proceeds deposited in the general fund, by revising subsection (d)  
660 as follows:

661 "(d) Any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered  
662 under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws

663 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon the payment of a  
 664 manufacturing fee of \$25.00 and a special license plate fee of \$35.00, in addition to the  
 665 regular motor vehicle registration fee, shall be able to apply for a special license plate listed  
 666 in subsection (l) of this Code section. Revalidation decals shall be issued for special  
 667 license plates in the same manner as provided for general issue license plates, ~~with the~~  
 668 ~~addition of a \$35.00 special license plate renewal fee;~~ For an annual revalidation decal,  
 669 such fee shall be \$35.00 and for a five-year revalidation decal, such fee shall be \$175.00,  
 670 provided that special license plates issued pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection (l) of this  
 671 Code section shall be exempt from such special license plate renewal fee."

672

**SECTION 29.**

673 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-151, relating to annual license fees for  
 674 operation of vehicles, fee for permanent licensing of certain trailers, and fee for new  
 675 passenger car with paid title ad valorem taxes, by revising subsection (c) as follows:

676 "(c) ~~The fee for a new motor vehicle which is a passenger car for which the purchaser has~~  
 677 ~~paid state and local title ad valorem taxes and that is being registered as provided in~~  
 678 ~~subsection (d) of Code Section 40-2-20 shall be \$40.00 for the two-year registration period.~~  
 679 Upon the election of a five-year motor vehicle registration and revalidation decal by an  
 680 owner of an eligible motor vehicle, the fees for the licensing of the operation of such  
 681 eligible motor vehicle shall be five times the applicable amount set forth in subsection (a)  
 682 of this Code section for the five-year registration period."

683

**SECTION 30.**

684 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

685 "40-2-139.

686 (a) For purposes of aiding in the enforcement of any emission inspection certification  
 687 requirements under Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12, any emission inspection station

688 holding a valid certificate of authorization from the Department of Natural Resources shall  
689 electronically transmit notice of the issuance of an emission inspection certification to the  
690 department within seven days of such issuance. Such notice shall include the name and  
691 contact information of the emission inspection station, the vehicle identification number  
692 to which such certificate has been issued, and the make and model year of such motor  
693 vehicle. The department shall prescribe the form and manner of electronic transmission  
694 for the purposes of complying with this Code section.

695 (b) The department shall identify when a motor vehicle owner is required to comply with  
696 emission inspection certification requirements under Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12, and  
697 no motor vehicle registration or renewal thereof shall be issued without notice to the  
698 department pursuant to this Code section that an emission inspection certification has been  
699 issued for such vehicle.

700 (c)(1) The department shall monitor the reporting by emission inspection stations of the  
701 issuance of emission inspection certifications. When a five-year registration has been  
702 issued by the department for a vehicle identification number recorded in the department's  
703 motor vehicle records that is required to comply with emission certification requirements  
704 under Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12, the department shall annually verify that the  
705 required emission inspection certification notice has been transmitted. The department  
706 shall notify the owner of a motor vehicle with a five-year registration period that lacks  
707 the required annual emission inspection certification. The department shall send such  
708 notice to the address of the owner of the motor vehicle shown in the records of the  
709 department unless such owner has consented to electronic notifications and  
710 communications pursuant to Code Section 40-1-9.

711 (2) It shall be the duty of the owner of a motor vehicle receiving notice pursuant to  
712 paragraph (1) of this subsection to obtain an emission inspection certification and provide  
713 proof of such certification to the department within 30 days of receipt of such notice. If  
714 proof of an emission inspection certification is not provided within the time period

715 specified in this Code section, the owner's motor vehicle registration shall be suspended  
716 immediately by operation of law by the department. When such proof is provided and  
717 the owner pays a \$60.00 restoration fee, the suspension shall terminate. If any restoration  
718 fee provided for in this Code section is paid to the county tax commissioner, the county  
719 shall retain \$10.00 thereof as a collection fee."

720 **SECTION 31.**

721 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2027.

722 **SECTION 32.**

723 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.