

Senate Bill 561

By: Senators Harbin of the 16th, Parent of the 44th, Still of the 48th, Anavitarte of the 31st and Strickland of the 42nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 registration and licensing of motor vehicles, so as to provide for an additional license plate
3 design honoring the 250th anniversary of the United States of America's independence; to
4 establish a specialty license plate honoring Girl Scouts of Georgia with proceeds distributed
5 to the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta and the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia organization;
6 to provide for related matters; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements;
7 to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration and
11 licensing of motor vehicles, is amended in Code Section 40-2-31, relating to license plate
12 design, retention of manufacturing and delivery costs, and revalidation, county, and "In God
13 We Trust" decals, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

14 "(b) License plates issued pursuant to this chapter shall be at least six inches wide and not
15 less than 12 inches in length, except that motorcycle license plates shall be at least four
16 inches wide and not less than seven inches in length and license plates for low-speed
17 vehicles and multipurpose off-highway vehicles shall be a size determined by the

18 commissioner. All license plates shall show in boldface characters the month and year of
19 expiration, the serial number, and either the full name or the abbreviation of the name of
20 the state, shall designate the county from which the license plate was issued unless
21 specifically stated otherwise in this chapter, and shall show such other distinctive markings
22 as in the judgment of the commissioner may be deemed advisable, so as to indicate the
23 class of weight of the vehicle for which the license plate was issued. Any license plate for
24 a low-speed vehicle or multipurpose off-highway vehicle shall designate the vehicle as
25 such. Such plates may also bear such figures, characters, letters, or combinations thereof
26 as in the judgment of the commissioner will to the best advantage advertise, popularize,
27 and otherwise promote Georgia as the 'Peach State.' Plates issued during the years 2026
28 through 2030 shall include the ~~design~~ designs approved pursuant to Code
29 Section 40-2-31.1. Except for license plates issued pursuant to Article 2B of this chapter,
30 any license plate issued pursuant to this chapter shall be of such strength and quality that
31 the plate shall provide a minimum service period of at least five years. The commissioner
32 shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 13 of Title 50, the
33 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act,' for the design and issuance of new license plates
34 and to implement the other provisions of this Code section."

35

SECTION 2.

36 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-31.1, relating to design and
37 selection of United States of America's semiquincentennial license plate, as follows:

38 "40-2-31.1.

39 (a) In coordination with the Department of Education, the department shall establish
40 parameters for the design of and a selection process for a license plate which
41 commemorates the United States of America's semiquincentennial. The design of such
42 plate shall be selected from designs submitted by students in grades six through eight as
43 part of a civics education and engagement program which shall include feedback from the

44 Georgia Commission on Civics Education, Georgia Center for Civic Engagement, Georgia
45 Historical Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and Daughters of the American
46 Revolution.

47 (b) In addition to the standard license plate design and the design set forth in subsection (a)
48 of this Code section, the department shall provide for an additional license plate design that
49 commemorates the anniversary of the United States of America's independence. Such
50 design shall include the phrase '250 years of freedom and liberty' in place of the county
51 decal."

52 **SECTION 3.**

53 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-86, relating to license plates promoting
54 or supporting certain agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations with proceeds disbursed to
55 the general fund and the agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation, is amended by adding a new
56 paragraph to subsection (l) to read as follows:

57 "(76) A special license plate honoring Girl Scouts of Georgia. The funds raised by the
58 sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed equally to the Girl Scouts of Greater
59 Atlanta and the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia organization."

60 **SECTION 4.**

61 In accordance with the requirements of Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(n) of the
62 Constitution of the State of Georgia, this Act shall not become law unless it receives the
63 requisite two-thirds' majority vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

64 **SECTION 5.**

65 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

66 **SECTION 6.**

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