

The House Committee on Motor Vehicles offers the following substitute to HB 1465:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 40 and Code Section 48-5C-1 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and alternative ad valorem
3 taxation of motor vehicles and title ad valorem tax fee, respectively, so as to repeal the
4 requirement to display a revalidation decal as evidence of annual motor vehicle registration
5 renewal; to provide for conforming changes; to provide for related matters; to provide an
6 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration and
10 licensing of motor vehicles, is amended in subsection (a) of Code Section 40-2-4, relating
11 to manufacture, sale, or issuance of license plate or revalidation decal prohibited, as follows:

12 "(a) Except as otherwise provided for in Article 2B of this chapter, it shall be unlawful for
13 any person, firm, or corporation to make, sell, or issue any license plate ~~or revalidation~~
14 ~~decal.~~"

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-8, relating to operation of unregistered vehicle or vehicle without current license plate, revalidation decal, or county decal, as follows:

"40-2-8.

(a) No person shall own, rent, lease, or operate any vehicle required to be registered pursuant to Code Section 40-2-20 upon a highway in this state without registering such vehicle. Any person who becomes a resident of this state shall register his or her vehicle within 30 days of becoming a resident. Any person who fails to comply with this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine of \$100.00 for each day in which the vehicle is in violation.

(b)(1) It shall be unlawful and punishable as for a misdemeanor to operate any vehicle required to be registered in this state pursuant to Code Section 40-2-20 without a valid numbered license plate ~~properly validated with a current revalidation decal~~, unless such operation is otherwise permitted under this chapter; and provided, further, that the purchaser of a new vehicle or a used vehicle from a dealer of new or used motor vehicles who displays a temporary operating permit issued as provided by Code Section 40-2-8.1 may operate such vehicle on the highways of this state without a current valid license plate during the period authorized by Code Sections 40-2-8.1 and 40-2-20. An owner acquiring a motor vehicle from an entity that is not a new or used vehicle dealer shall register such vehicle as provided for in Code Section 40-2-29 unless such vehicle is to be registered under the International Registration Plan pursuant to Article 3A of this chapter.

(2) The purchaser and operator of a vehicle shall not be subject to the penalties set forth in this Code section during the period allowed for the registration of such vehicle.

(c) It shall be unlawful and punishable as for a misdemeanor to operate any vehicle required to be registered in this state without a valid county name decal designating the

county where the vehicle was last registered, unless such operation is otherwise permitted under this chapter. A county name decal shall not be required if there is no space provided for a county name decal on the current license plate. ~~Any person convicted of a violation of this subsection shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$25.00 if that person shows to the court having jurisdiction of the offense that the proper revalidation decal had been obtained prior to the time of the offense.~~

(d) No violation of this Code section shall have occurred upon presentation of evidence that the owner had properly applied for the registration of such vehicle, but that the license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~ had not been delivered to such owner at the time the uniform traffic citation was issued.

(e) The commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Code section."

SECTION 3.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-20, relating to registration and license requirements, certificate of registration and temporary operating permit, and two-year registration option for new motor vehicles, by revising subparagraph (a)(1)(A) as follows:

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

SECTION 4.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-30, relating to purchase by mail, as follows:

67 "40-2-30.

68 An applicant may purchase a vehicle license plate or ~~revalidation decal~~ required annual
69 registration renewal ~~by mail~~, by mailing a properly completed application form to the tag
70 agent of the county of his or her residence along with a bank check or money order in the
71 amount of the license fee and all ad valorem taxes due ~~thereon plus an additional fee of~~
72 ~~\$1.00."~~

73 **SECTION 5.**

74 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-31, relating to license plate design,
75 retention of manufacturing and delivery costs, revalidation, county, and "In God We Trust"
76 decals, by revising subsections (b.1) through (g) as follows:

77 "(b.1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Code Sections 40-2-131 and 48-2-17, the
78 commissioner shall retain the costs of manufacturing and delivery of license plates;
79 ~~revalidation decals~~, and county name decals from the registration fee as set forth in Code
80 Section 40-2-151; provided, however, that this subsection shall not apply to license plates
81 issued pursuant to Article 2B of this chapter.

82 (c) Except for license plates issued pursuant to Article 2B of this chapter, the face of the
83 license plate to be displayed shall be treated completely with a retroreflective material
84 which will increase the nighttime visibility and legibility of the plate. The department shall
85 prepare the specifications which such retroreflective material shall meet.

86 (d) ~~In those years in which a new license plate is not issued and the license plate was not~~
87 ~~issued pursuant to Article 2B of this chapter, a revalidation decal with a distinctive serial~~
88 ~~number shall be issued and affixed in the space provided on the license plate issued to the~~
89 ~~applicant which shall indicate the year and month through which the registration of the~~
90 ~~vehicle shall be valid; provided, however, that, if the commissioner determines that it is~~
91 ~~necessary, two revalidation decals shall be issued for each license plate to reflect the~~
92 ~~required information. When an applicant is issued a revalidation decal and such applicant~~

93 registered the vehicle in another county the previous year, the applicant shall also be issued
94 a new county decal which shall be properly affixed to the license plate and shall replace the
95 other county decal.

96 ~~(e) The commissioner shall furnish without cost to each tag agent reflective adhesive~~
97 ~~decal in sufficient number, upon which there shall be printed the name of the agent's~~
98 ~~county. Such a decal shall be issued with each metal license plate and shall be affixed in~~
99 ~~the space provided on the license plate without obscuring any number or other information~~
100 ~~required to be present on the plate. A tag agent shall offer, upon such issuance of a new~~
101 ~~metal license plate, the option of obtaining a county decal or a decal providing for the~~
102 ~~nation's motto, 'In God We Trust.'~~

103 (f) A county tag agent shall issue a county name decal, upon request, for the agent's county
104 only if:

105 (1) The applicant is a resident of or a business located in the county named on the decal;

106 (2) The applicant is registering a new vehicle in such county, is renewing a current
107 vehicle registration, or is transferring registration of a vehicle to the county named on the
108 decal;

109 (3) The application for registration of the vehicle is being made in the county named on
110 the decal; and

111 (4) The license plate was not issued pursuant to Article 2B of this chapter.

112 ~~(g)~~(e) The commissioner shall furnish without cost to each tag agent reflective adhesive
113 decals in sufficient number, upon which there shall be printed the nation's motto, 'In God
114 We Trust.' A tag agent shall offer, upon such issuance of a new metal license plate, the
115 option of obtaining a county decal or a decal providing for the nation's motto, 'In God We
116 Trust.' Such a decal shall be issued, upon request and free of charge, by a county tag agent
117 with each new metal license plate."

SECTION 6.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-33, relating to issuance of license plates and decals, transfer of registration to a digital license plate, compensation of tag agents, and required identification, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) and subsection (b) as follows:

"(a)(1) Upon compliance with the provisions of this chapter and the payment of the license fee required by law, the tag agent shall accept the application for registration and, except as otherwise provided for in this chapter, if the license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~ applied for is in such tag agent's inventory, he or she shall issue the appropriate plate ~~or revalidation decal~~."

"(b) Except as provided for in Code Section 40-2-22, the amount of commission permitted as compensation to tag agents under this Code section shall be \$1.00 per license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~ issued during any calendar year. Twenty-five cents for each license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~ sold in excess of 4,000 during any one calendar year shall become the property of the county and shall be turned over to the fiscal authorities of the county by the tag agent. The remaining portion of such commissions shall be disposed of as provided in Code Section 40-2-34."

SECTION 7.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-40, relating to registration of delinquent vehicles and collection and disposition of penalties, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

"(b) All applications for the registration of a delinquent vehicle shall, before being accepted by a tag agent, be first endorsed by a sheriff or a deputy sheriff, a chief of police or his or her designated representative, a state law enforcement officer, a tax commissioner, or a tax collector. The officer endorsing the delinquent application shall indicate, with his or her endorsement on the application, the total amount of the prescribed registration fee

together with the 25 percent penalty provided in this Code section, and the full total of such amount shall be paid to the tag agent before any license plate or ~~revalidation decal~~ registration renewal as provided for in this chapter shall be assigned to the applicant."

SECTION 8.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-41.1, relating to authentic historical Georgia license plates, by revising subsections (b) through (d) as follows:

"(b) The owner of any antique motor vehicle manufactured in 1989 or earlier shall be authorized to display in lieu of and in the same manner as the license plate otherwise required under Code Section 40-2-41 an authentic historical Georgia license plate which clearly represents the model year within four years of any such antique motor vehicle, provided that the owner has properly registered such antique motor vehicle for the current year as otherwise required under this chapter and has obtained a current license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~ for such antique motor vehicle. Such currently valid license plate shall be kept in such antique motor vehicle at all times but need not be displayed in a manner to be visible from outside the vehicle.

(c) For purposes of this Code section, the authentic historical Georgia license plate shall be furnished by the owner of any such antique motor vehicle.

(d) ~~No later than January 1, 2006, the~~ The commissioner shall have installed within the department's computer information system applicable to the registration of motor vehicles the necessary program which will include in the information relating to the current license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~ registration renewal issued for an antique motor vehicle the information relating to the authentic historical Georgia license plate authorized to be displayed on such antique motor vehicle."

SECTION 9.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-42, relating to transfer of license plates and revalidation decals, as follows:

"40-2-42.

(a) A license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~, when issued, shall be transferred from one vehicle to another vehicle of the same class acquired by the same person as provided in this chapter. Any use of a license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~ by any other person or persons in any manner not provided for in this chapter shall be a violation of this chapter.

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

(c) The commissioner shall provide appropriate procedures whereby, when the registered owner of a jointly owned motor vehicle is deceased, the license plate issued for the motor vehicle may, upon appropriate application and payment of fees, be transferred to the surviving owner's name, provided that the surviving owner acquires a new certificate of

193 title under subsection (d) or paragraph (1) of subsection (e) of Code Section 40-3-34 and
194 makes the payment of appropriate ad valorem taxes."

195 **SECTION 10.**

196 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-44, relating to reporting of
197 theft, loss, or mutilation of license plates or revalidation decals and issuance of duplicates or
198 replacements, as follows:

199 "40-2-44.

200 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, the owner of a motor vehicle
201 shall immediately report the theft, loss, or mutilation of a license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~
202 to the appropriate law enforcement agency or official, including but not limited to a
203 municipal or county police department or officer, the county sheriff, the Department of
204 Public Safety, or the Georgia State Patrol. ~~Said~~ Such owner shall obtain a copy of the
205 police report and shall submit such copy to the commissioner with a fee of \$8.00 to obtain
206 a duplicate license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~. Alternatively, the copy of the police report
207 may be submitted to the applicant's county tag agent with a fee of \$8.00 in which case the
208 county tag agent is authorized to issue a replacement license plate ~~or decal~~. In those
209 instances in which a vehicle owner is unable to obtain a police report of such theft, loss,
210 or mutilation of a license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~, the owner shall be authorized to
211 submit to the appropriate law enforcement agency or official and to either the
212 commissioner or to the county tag agent a sworn affidavit as to such theft, loss, or
213 mutilation in lieu of a police report and obtain a replacement license plate ~~or decal~~. The
214 county tag agent shall be entitled to retain as compensation for issuance of a replacement
215 license plate ~~or decal~~ the same commission as provided for issuance of a new license plate
216 ~~or decal~~ under the terms and conditions provided in subsection (b) of Code Section
217 40-2-33.

(b) If the license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~ is mutilated but still legible and if such license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~ is surrendered with the application for the duplicate, the requirements of subsection (a) of this Code section, relating to reporting the theft, loss, or mutilation of a license plate ~~or decal~~ and submitting a copy of a police report, shall not apply.

(c) A duplicate county decal when the original has been lost, defaced, or destroyed may be obtained from the commissioner at no cost. A replacement license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~ when the original has been lost in the mail prior to receipt by the registered owner shall be issued by the commissioner without charge upon application and completion of the form and affidavit prescribed by the commissioner setting forth the circumstances of nonreceipt of the license plate ~~or decal~~. The owner shall report the nonreceipt or loss of the license plate ~~or decal~~ to the appropriate law enforcement agency or official, including, but not limited to, a municipal or county police department or officer, the county sheriff, or the Department of Public Safety. ~~Said~~ Such owner shall obtain a copy of the police report on which the license plate ~~or decal number~~ is listed and shall submit such copy to the commissioner. The owner shall not be charged a fee by the Department of Public Safety or the local law enforcement agency or official for a copy of such police report.

(d) The commissioner is authorized to establish procedures and promulgate rules and regulations for carrying out this Code section."

SECTION 11.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-45, relating to transferring license plate or revalidation decal for "salvage", "rebuilt", damaged, or demolished motor vehicles, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

"(a) No person shall transfer a license plate ~~or decal~~ from one vehicle to any other motor vehicle which is a 'salvage' or 'rebuilt' motor vehicle as provided in Chapter 3 of this title unless the owner of such vehicle submits satisfactory proof to the commissioner that the

244 motor vehicle inspection required by Code Section 40-3-37 has been performed and such
245 vehicle has been determined to be in full compliance with the law."

246 **SECTION 12.**

247 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-53, relating to license plates for fleet
248 motor vehicles, by revising subsections (b) and (c) as follows:

249 "(b) Fleet motor vehicle license plates shall be similar in design to regular license plates
250 issued under Code Section 40-2-31, ~~except that such fleet motor vehicle license plates shall~~
251 ~~contain such words or symbols, in addition to the numbers and letters otherwise prescribed~~
252 ~~by law, so as to distinctively identify the motor vehicles on which they are placed as fleet~~
253 ~~motor vehicles. Such motor vehicle license plates shall contain the word 'FLEET' in the~~
254 ~~location of and in lieu of the revalidation decal required under Code Section 40-2-8 so as~~
255 ~~to distinctively identify the motor vehicle as part of an enrolled fleet.~~

256 (c) License plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed annually upon payment
257 of a renewal fee to the department. ~~Such fee shall be the same amount that would be~~
258 ~~charged for a revalidation decal for such vehicle."~~

259 **SECTION 13.**

260 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-57, relating to application for digital
261 license plate, renewals, and fees, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

262 "(b) A motor vehicle owner with a digital license plate shall renew the registration
263 annually as provided by this chapter. The department shall notify the digital license plate
264 provider upon satisfactory renewal. ~~Evidence of such renewal shall be displayed upon the~~
265 ~~digital license plate in a manner that indicates the year and month through which the~~
266 ~~registration of the vehicle shall be valid. Compliance with this subsection shall satisfy the~~
267 ~~revalidation decal requirements of this chapter."~~

SECTION 14.

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

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

SECTION 15.

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

"(5) 'Special license plate renewal fee' means a \$35.00 fee paid at the time a special license plate is renewed ~~and a revalidation decal is issued.~~"

SECTION 16.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-61, relating to license plates for U.S. Senators and Congressmen, state constitutional officers, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Justices of Supreme Court, Judges of Court of Appeals, and Public Service Commission members, as follows:

291 "40-2-61.

292 The commissioner shall design and issue distinctive license plates to each United States
293 Senator and Congressman elected from the State of Georgia, each state constitutional
294 officer, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each Justice of the Supreme Court
295 and each Judge of the Court of Appeals, and each member of the Public Service
296 Commission to be placed on such official's personal motor vehicle. Each such distinctive
297 license plate shall indicate the individual's elected office and no county name decal need
298 be affixed to such plate as required pursuant to Code Section 40-2-9. The special license
299 plate authorized by this Code section shall be issued to such elected official upon
300 application and payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00 and upon compliance with the
301 state laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and shall be transferred
302 as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. Distinctive license plates issued pursuant to this
303 Code section shall be renewed annually, ~~and revalidation decals shall be issued~~ upon
304 compliance with the laws relating to registration and licensing and upon payment of an
305 additional registration fee of \$35.00 which shall be collected by the county tag agent at the
306 time for collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided
307 in Code Section 40-2-34. For purposes of this Code section, the term 'state constitutional
308 officer' means the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General,
309 State School Superintendent, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture,
310 or Commissioner of Labor."

311 **SECTION 17.**

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

314 "40-2-62.

315 The commissioner shall mail special and distinctive license plates printed for members of
316 the General Assembly and former members of the General Assembly who are hereby

deemed to have emeritus status after having served in the General Assembly eight or more years to the local tag agent in the counties wherein such members or former members reside on or before the owner's registration period each year. Such special and distinctive license plates shall be issued only upon applications made to the local tag agent and payment of a \$25.00 manufacturing fee. License plates may be issued by the local tag agent upon a proper application and in accordance with the terms of this chapter. License plates issued pursuant to this Code section need not contain a place for the county name decal, and no county name decal need be affixed to a license plate issued pursuant to this Code section. Special and distinctive license plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be renewed annually, ~~and revalidation decals shall be issued~~ upon compliance with the laws relating to registration and licensing and upon payment of an additional registration fee of \$35.00 which shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time for collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The special license plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred to another vehicle as provided in Code Section 40-2-80."

SECTION 18.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-63.1, relating to license plates for public safety first responders injured in the line of duty, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

"(b) License plates issued pursuant to this Code section need not contain a place for the county name decal as required pursuant to Code Section 40-2-9, and a county name decal need not be affixed to a license plate issued pursuant to this Code section. Special and distinctive license plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be renewed annually; ~~and free revalidation decals shall be issued upon compliance with the laws relating to registration and licensing~~ without payment of an annual renewal fee. The special license plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred to another vehicle as provided in Code Section 40-2-80."

SECTION 19.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-81, relating to license plates for members of the Georgia State Defense Force, by revising subsection (f) as follows:

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

SECTION 20.

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

"(e) Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed annually ~~with a revalidation decal~~ as provided in Code Section 40-2-31. It shall be a requirement that a county name decal shall be affixed and displayed on license plates issued under this Code section."

SECTION 21.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-85.1, relating to license plates for certain veterans, by revising subsection (f) as follows:

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

SECTION 22.

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

367 "(e) Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed annually with
368 ~~a revalidation decal~~, as provided in Code Section 40-2-31, without payment of an
369 additional \$25.00 annual registration fee. Special license plates issued under this Code
370 section shall be transferred between vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80."

371 **SECTION 23.**

372 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-85.3, relating to license plates for Gold
373 Star family members, by revising subsections (d), (g), and (h) as follows:

374 "(d) Any motor vehicle owner who is a resident of Georgia, other than one registering
375 under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with state laws relating to
376 registration and licensing of motor vehicles shall be issued such a special license plate upon
377 application therefor. Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed
378 annually ~~with a revalidation decal~~ as provided in Code Section 40-2-31. Upon payment
379 of all ad valorem taxes and other fees due at registration of a motor vehicle, an eligible
380 family member may apply for a Gold Star license plate. In order to qualify as an eligible
381 family member for purposes of this Code section, the person must be related to the fallen
382 service member as a spouse, mother, father, sibling, child, stepparent, or surviving spouse
383 of such service member's sibling. Up to two free license plates shall be allowed for any
384 eligible family member and they may purchase additional license plates for each motor
385 vehicle they register in this state. If a Gold Star license plate is lost, damaged, or stolen,
386 the eligible family member must pay the reasonable cost, to be established by the
387 department, but not to exceed the cost of other specialty license plates, to replace the Gold
388 Star license plate."

389 ~~"(g) Renewal decals shall be issued at no cost to~~ No fee shall be required for the renewal
390 of a registration for any person that received a free license plate under the provisions of this
391 Code section upon the payment of ad valorem taxes and other registration fees, provided
392 that the renewal is applied for on or within 30 days prior to the renewal date of the eligible

person. If the eligible person fails to renew within such time, he or she shall pay a standard renewal fee and be subject to the standard penalties for late payment of ad valorem taxes due on the motor vehicle."

"(h) An eligible family member may request a Gold Star license plate at any time during his or her registration period. ~~If such a license plate is to replace a current valid license plate, the license plate shall be issued with appropriate renewal decals attached.~~"

SECTION 24.

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

"(C) 'Special license plate renewal fee' means a \$35.00 fee paid at the time a ~~revalidation decal is issued~~ the registration for a special license plate is renewed."

"(d) Any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon the payment of the appropriate fees in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee shall be able to apply for a special license plate listed in this Code section. ~~Revalidation decals shall be issued for special license plates in the same manner as provided for general issue license plates.~~"

"(f) An applicant may request a special license plate any time during the applicant's registration period. ~~If such a license plate is to replace a current valid license plate, the special license plate shall be issued with appropriate decals attached upon payment of the manufacturing fee and the special license plate renewal fee.~~"

SECTION 25.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-86.1, relating to license plates promoting or supporting certain agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations or issued to qualified motor vehicles or owners with proceeds deposited in the general fund, by revising subsections (d) and (g) and subparagraph (l)(9)(B) as follows:

"(d) Any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon the payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00 and a special license plate fee of \$35.00, in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee, shall be able to apply for a special license plate listed in subsection (l) of this Code section. ~~Revalidation decals shall be issued for special license plates in the same manner as provided for general issue license plates, with the addition of a~~ A \$35.00 special license plate renewal fee shall be required for registration renewals, provided that special license plates issued pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection (l) of this Code section shall be exempt from such special license plate renewal fee."

"(g) An applicant may request a special license plate any time during the applicant's registration period. ~~If such a license plate is to replace a current valid license plate, the special license plate shall be issued with appropriate decals attached,~~ upon the payment of any applicable registration fees, the manufacturing fee, and the special license plate fee."

"(B) Should a certified firefighter or volunteer firefighter who has been issued a special and distinctive license plate be separated from such firefighter's department for any reason other than retirement from employment, the separated firefighter shall, within 14 days of such separation, return such special and distinctive license plate to the issuing county tag agent. Upon receipt of such special and distinctive license plate, a county tag agent shall reissue a regular license plate ~~and the appropriate revalidation decal~~ for the applicable registration period, at no additional charge, to such former

firefighter to replace the special and distinctive license plate. Should a firefighter return to service with the same or another fire department, the chief of the fire department employing such firefighter shall secure the regular license plate of such person and return same to the commissioner, along with a certificate to the effect that such person has become a member of the fire department, and the effective date thereof, whereupon the commissioner shall, upon application and upon the payment of a \$35.00 manufacturing fee and all other applicable registration and licensing fees at the time of registration, reissue a special and distinctive license plate to such new member to replace the returned regular license plate."

SECTION 26.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-135, relating to revocation and seizure of license plates and renewal decals, by revising subsection (c) as follows:

"(c) Any state or county law enforcement officer or any special agent or enforcement officer appointed under Code Section 40-2-134 may, upon the direction or request of the commissioner, go upon public or private property to seize a license plate or ~~renewal decal~~ which has been revoked as provided in subsection (a) of this Code section."

SECTION 27.

Code Section 48-5C-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to alternative ad valorem taxation of motor vehicles and title ad valorem tax fee, is amended by revising paragraph (5) of subsection (d) as follows:

"(5) Any motor vehicle subject to state and local title ad valorem tax fees under paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall continue to be subject to the title, license plate, ~~revalidation decal~~, and registration requirements and applicable fees as otherwise provided in Title 40 in the same manner as motor vehicles which are not

468 subject to state and local title ad valorem tax fees under paragraph (1) of subsection (b)
469 of this Code section."

470 **SECTION 28.**

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

472 **SECTION 29.**

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