

House Bill 1191 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives O'Steen of the 169<sup>th</sup>, Bonner of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Corbett of the 174<sup>th</sup>, Cannon of the 172<sup>nd</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, so as  
3 to provide for additional military medal awards eligible for special veteran license plates; to  
4 provide for a specialty license plate for United States Navy submarine service members; to  
5 provide for an effective date; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
6 for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
10 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended in Code  
11 Section 40-2-85.1, relating to license plates for certain veterans, by revising paragraph (1)  
12 of subsection (a) as follows:

13 "(1) 'Military medal award' means the following medals, decorations, or other recognition  
14 of honor for military service awarded by a branch of the United States military:

15 (A) Medal of Honor;

16 (B) Bronze Star Medal;

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- 17 (C) Silver Star Medal;  
18 (D) Distinguished Service Cross;  
19 (E) Navy Cross;  
20 (F) Air Force Cross;  
21 (G) Defense Distinguished Service Medal;  
22 (H) Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal;  
23 (I) Distinguished Service Medal;  
24 (J) Navy Distinguished Service Medal;  
25 (K) Air Force Distinguished Service Medal;  
26 (L) Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal;  
27 (M) Defense Superior Service Medal;  
28 (N) Legion of Merit;  
29 (O) Distinguished Flying Cross;  
30 (P) Purple Heart;  
31 (Q) Air Medal;  
32 (R) Soldier's Medal; and  
33 (S) Meritorious Service Medal;  
34 (T) Navy Corps Medal;  
35 (U) Marine Corps Medal;  
36 (V) Airman's Medal; and  
37 (W) Coast Guard Medal."

38 **SECTION 2.**

39 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

40 "40-2-85.5.

41 (a)(1) Motor vehicle owners who are members of the United States Navy submarine  
42 service shall be eligible to receive special and distinctive vehicle license plates for private

43 passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, or recreational vehicles used for personal  
44 transportation. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor  
45 vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in  
46 Article 2 of this chapter.

47 (2) Motor vehicle owners who are retired members of the United States Navy submarine  
48 service shall be eligible to receive special and distinctive vehicle license plates for private  
49 passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, or recreational vehicles used for personal  
50 transportation. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor  
51 vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in  
52 Article 2 of this chapter.

53 (3) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates issued pursuant to paragraph (2) of  
54 this subsection shall contain the word 'RETIRED' in the location of and in lieu of the  
55 name of the county of issuance.

56 (b) A person who qualifies for the special and distinctive license plate pursuant to  
57 subsection (a) of this Code section shall make application therefor with the commissioner  
58 and include the requisite fee. The commissioner shall design a distinctive license plate as  
59 provided in subsection (c) of this Code section and issue the distinctive license plates to  
60 qualifying applicants. There shall be no minimum required number of applicants for such  
61 distinctive license plate. The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and regulations  
62 as may be necessary to enforce compliance with all state license laws relating to the use  
63 and operation of private passenger cars and trucks before issuing these license plates in lieu  
64 of the regular Georgia license plates. The additional manufacturing fee for such special  
65 and distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00. The commissioner is specifically authorized  
66 to promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure compliance in instances where  
67 such vehicles have been transferred or sold.

68 (c) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates issued by this Code section shall be  
69 as prescribed in Article 2 of this chapter for private passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, or

70 recreational vehicles used for personal transportation, except that the commissioner shall  
71 include a special design to identify the owner as a member of the United States Navy  
72 submarine service.

73 (d) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between  
74 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80."

75 **SECTION 3.**

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

77 **SECTION 4.**

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