

House Bill 1465 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives McCollum of the 30th, Efstoration of the 104th, Corbett of the 174th, Powell of the 33rd, Hitchens of the 161st, and others

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.

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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

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

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

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

54 **SECTION 3.**

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

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

64 **SECTION 4.**

65 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-30, relating to purchase by
 66 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."

118 **SECTION 6.**

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

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

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

135 **SECTION 7.**

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

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

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

147 **SECTION 8.**

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

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

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

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

SECTION 9.

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

170 "40-2-42.

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

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

189 (c) The commissioner shall provide appropriate procedures whereby, when the registered
190 owner of a jointly owned motor vehicle is deceased, the license plate issued for the motor
191 vehicle may, upon appropriate application and payment of fees, be transferred to the
192 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.

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

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

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

237 **SECTION 11.**

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

241 "(a) No person shall transfer a license plate ~~or decal~~ from one vehicle to any other motor
242 vehicle which is a 'salvage' or 'rebuilt' motor vehicle as provided in Chapter 3 of this title
243 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."~~

268 **SECTION 14.**

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

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

280 **SECTION 15.**

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

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

286 **SECTION 16.**

287 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-61, relating to license plates
288 for U.S. Senators and Congressmen, state constitutional officers, Speaker of the House of
289 Representatives, Justices of Supreme Court, Judges of Court of Appeals, and Public Service
290 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

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

332 **SECTION 18.**

333 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-63.1, relating to license plates for
334 public safety first responders injured in the line of duty, by revising subsection (b) as follows:
335 "(b) License plates issued pursuant to this Code section need not contain a place for the
336 county name decal as required pursuant to Code Section 40-2-9, and a county name decal
337 need not be affixed to a license plate issued pursuant to this Code section. Special and
338 distinctive license plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be renewed annually;
339 ~~and free revalidation decals shall be issued upon compliance with the laws relating to~~
340 ~~registration and licensing~~ without payment of an annual renewal fee. The special license
341 plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred to another vehicle as
342 provided in Code Section 40-2-80."

343 **SECTION 19.**

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

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

350 **SECTION 20.**

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

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

357 **SECTION 21.**

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

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

364 **SECTION 22.**

365 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-85.2, relating to license plates for
366 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

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

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

399 **SECTION 24.**

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

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

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

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

417

SECTION 25.

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

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

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

437 "(B) Should a certified firefighter or volunteer firefighter who has been issued a special
438 and distinctive license plate be separated from such firefighter's department for any
439 reason other than retirement from employment, the separated firefighter shall, within
440 14 days of such separation, return such special and distinctive license plate to the
441 issuing county tag agent. Upon receipt of such special and distinctive license plate, a
442 county tag agent shall reissue a regular license plate ~~and the appropriate revalidation~~
443 ~~decals~~ for the applicable registration period, at no additional charge, to such former

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

453 **SECTION 26.**

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

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

460 **SECTION 27.**

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

464 "(5) Any motor vehicle subject to state and local title ad valorem tax fees under
 465 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall continue to be subject to the
 466 title, license plate, ~~revalidation decal~~, and registration requirements and applicable fees
 467 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.