

The House Committee on Rules offers the following substitute to SB 384:

**WITHDRAWN**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12, Title 40, and Code Section 48-5C-1 of the  
2 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicle emission inspection and  
3 maintenance, motor vehicles and traffic, and alternative ad valorem taxation of motor  
4 vehicles and title ad valorem tax fee, respectively, so as to provide for an optional five-year  
5 motor vehicle registration for certain motor vehicles; to provide for the submission of  
6 certificates of emission inspection for such five-year motor vehicle registrations; to authorize  
7 electronic notice in certain instances; to prohibit credits or refunds of registration fees; to  
8 provide for fees for five-year registration for prestige and specialty license plates; to provide  
9 for the submission of certificates of emission inspections to the Department of Revenue; to  
10 authorize the adoption of rules and regulations; to repeal the requirement to display a  
11 revalidation decal as evidence of annual motor vehicle registration renewal; to revise and  
12 provide for definitions; to provide for conforming changes; to provide for related matters;  
13 to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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### SECTION 1.

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

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

### SECTION 2.

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

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

41 a responsible motor vehicle without proof of a certificate of emission inspection during an  
42 inspection term shall be in violation of this article."

43 **SECTION 3.**

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

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

54 **SECTION 4.**

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

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

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

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

67 'BY ELECTING A FIVE-YEAR VEHICLE REGISTRATION, YOU AGREE TO  
 68 RECEIVE ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS  
 69 RELATING TO FAILURE TO SUBMIT REQUIRED EMISSIONS INSPECTION  
 70 CERTIFICATIONS AND ANY POSSIBLE MOTOR VEHICLE SUSPENSION  
 71 THAT MAY RESULT FROM SUCH FAILURE.'

72 **SECTION 5.**

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

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

80 **SECTION 6.**

81 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-4, relating to manufacture, sale, or  
 82 issuance of license plate or revalidation decal prohibited, by revising subsection (a) as  
 83 follows:

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

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## SECTION 7.

Said title 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

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

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

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

#### 126 SECTION 8.

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

128 "40-2-10.1.

129 In no case shall an owner be entitled to a credit or refund for any payment of fees for a  
130 registration issued under this chapter upon the cancellation, termination, transfer,  
131 suspension, or revocation of such registration or upon the removal of a license plate for any  
132 other reason from a vehicle registered in this state."

#### 133 SECTION 9.

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

137 "40-2-20.

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

144 (B)(i) The purchaser or other transferee owner of every new or used motor vehicle,  
145 including tractors and motorcycles, or trailer shall register such vehicle as provided  
146 in Code Section 40-2-8 and obtain or transfer as provided in this chapter a license to  
147 operate it for the period remaining until such person's next registration period which  
148 immediately follows such initial registration period, without regard to whether such  
149 next registration period occurs in the same calendar year as the initial registration  
150 period or how soon such next registration period follows the initial registration period;  
151 provided, however, that this registration and licensing requirement does not apply to  
152 a dealer which acquires a new or used motor vehicle and holds it for resale. ~~The~~  
153 ~~commissioner may provide by rule or regulation for one 30 day extension of such~~  
154 ~~initial registration period which may be granted by the county tag agent if the~~  
155 ~~transferor has not provided such purchaser or other transferee owner with a title to the~~  
156 ~~motor vehicle more than five business days prior to the expiration of such initial~~  
157 ~~registration period. The county tag agent shall grant an extension of the initial~~  
158 ~~registration period when the transferor, purchaser, or transferee can demonstrate by~~  
159 ~~affidavit in a form provided by the commissioner that title has not been provided to~~  
160 ~~the purchaser or transferee due to the failure of a security interest or lienholder to~~  
161 ~~timely release a security interest or lien in accordance with Code Section 40-3-56.~~

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

164 providing to the purchaser or transferee of such motor vehicle the last certificate of  
165 registration on such vehicle at the time of such sale or transfer; provided, however,  
166 that, in the case of a salvage motor vehicle or a motor vehicle which is stolen but  
167 subsequently recovered by the insurance company after payment of a total loss claim,  
168 the salvage dealer or insurer, respectively, shall not be required to provide the  
169 certificate of registration for such vehicle; and provided, further, that in the case of a  
170 repossessed motor vehicle or a court ordered sale or other involuntary transfer, the  
171 lienholder or the transferor shall not be required to provide the certificate of  
172 registration for such vehicle but shall, prior to the sale of such vehicle, surrender the  
173 license plate of such vehicle to the commissioner or the county tag agent by personal  
174 delivery or by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery for cancellation.

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

182 (2) An application for the registration of a motor vehicle may not be submitted separately  
183 from the application for a certificate of title for such motor vehicle, unless a certificate  
184 of title has been issued in the owner's name, such title has been applied for in the owner's  
185 name, or the motor vehicle is not required to be titled. An application for a certificate of  
186 title for a motor vehicle may be submitted separately from the application for the  
187 registration of such motor vehicle.

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

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

- 191 (2) To any tractor or three-wheeled motorcycle used only for agricultural purposes;  
192 ~~(2.1)~~(3) To any vehicle or equipment used for transporting cargo or containers between  
193 and within wharves, storage areas, or terminals within the facilities of any port under the  
194 jurisdiction of the Georgia Ports Authority when such vehicle or equipment is being  
195 operated upon any public road not part of The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of  
196 Interstate and Defense Highways by the owner thereof or his or her agent within a radius  
197 of ten miles of the port facility of origin and accompanied by an escort vehicle equipped  
198 with one or more operating amber flashing lights that are visible from a distance of 500  
199 feet;
- 200 ~~(3)~~(4) To any trailer which has no springs and which is being employed in hauling  
201 unprocessed farm products to their first market destination;
- 202 ~~(4)~~(5) To any trailer which has no springs, which is pulled from a tongue, and which is  
203 used primarily to transport fertilizer to a farm;
- 204 ~~(5)~~(6) To any electric powered personal transportation vehicle;
- 205 ~~(6)~~(7) To any moped; or
- 206 ~~(7)~~(8) To any golf car.
- 207 ~~(c) Any person who fails to register a new or used motor vehicle as required in subsection~~  
208 ~~(a) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof,~~  
209 ~~shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$100.00.~~
- 210 ~~(d) Upon the payment of the requisite fee, the purchaser of a new motor vehicle which is~~  
211 ~~a passenger car, for which such purchaser has paid state and local title ad valorem taxes,~~  
212 ~~may choose to register such passenger car for an initial period of two years instead of the~~  
213 ~~annual registration provided for in this Code section, provided that the motor vehicle owner~~  
214 ~~does not elect a prestige or special license plate. Thereafter, such passenger car shall be~~  
215 ~~subject to the annual registration requirements of this Code section.~~
- 216 (c) On and after July 1, 2027, an owner of an eligible motor vehicle who has complied  
217 with all other requirements of this chapter shall be authorized to register or renew a

218 registration for such eligible vehicle annually or for a period of five years. In addition to  
 219 the applicable license fee set forth in Code Section 40-2-151, an owner of an eligible motor  
 220 vehicle with a prestige or special license plate shall pay any applicable registration renewal  
 221 fees for such license plate. Any owner of an eligible motor vehicle who elects a five-year  
 222 registration shall not be relieved of any applicable emission inspection certification  
 223 requirements under Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12.

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

231 (e) The commissioner shall be authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as may  
 232 be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Code section and the issuance of five-year  
 233 registrations."

234 **SECTION 10.**  
 235 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-21, relating to registration periods, by  
 236 adding a new paragraph to subsection (a) and revising subsection (b) as follows:

237 "(.01) 'Eligible motor vehicle registration term' means every fifth registration period for  
 238 an owner of an eligible motor vehicle who elects a five-year registration renewal option."

239 "(b) The owner of every vehicle registered in the previous calendar year this state shall  
 240 register renew such registration and obtain a license to operate such vehicle not later than  
 241 the last day of the owner's registration period for an annual motor vehicle registration or  
 242 the last day of an eligible motor vehicle registration term for a five-year motor vehicle  
 243 registration."

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**SECTION 11.**

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

247 "40-2-30.

248 An applicant may purchase a vehicle license plate or ~~revalidation decal~~ required  
249 registration renewal ~~by mail~~; by mailing a properly completed application form to the tag  
250 agent of the county of his or her residence along with a bank check or money order in the  
251 amount of the license fee and all ad valorem taxes due thereon plus an additional fee of  
252 \$1.00. Such fee shall be remitted by the governing body of the county of the collecting tag  
253 agent to the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund provided for under Chapter 17 of  
254 Title 47."

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**SECTION 12.**

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

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

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

268 (d) ~~In those years in which a new license plate is not issued and the license plate was not~~  
269 ~~issued pursuant to Article 2B of this chapter, a revalidation decal with a distinctive serial~~

270 number shall be issued and affixed in the space provided on the license plate issued to the  
271 applicant which shall indicate the year and month through which the registration of the  
272 vehicle shall be valid; provided, however, that, if the commissioner determines that it is  
273 necessary, two revalidation decals shall be issued for each license plate to reflect the  
274 required information. When an applicant is issued a revalidation decal and such applicant  
275 registered the vehicle in another county the previous year, the applicant shall also be issued  
276 a new county decal which shall be properly affixed to the license plate and shall replace the  
277 other county decal.

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

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

- 287 (1) The applicant is a resident of or a business located in the county named on the decal;
- 288 (2) The applicant is registering a new vehicle in such county, is renewing a current  
289 vehicle registration, or is transferring registration of a vehicle to the county named on the  
290 decal;
- 291 (3) The application for registration of the vehicle is being made in the county named on  
292 the decal; and
- 293 (4) The license plate was not issued pursuant to Article 2B of this chapter.

294 ~~(g)~~(e) The commissioner shall furnish without cost to each tag agent reflective adhesive  
295 decals in sufficient number, upon which there shall be printed the nation's motto, 'In God  
296 We Trust.' A tag agent shall offer, upon such issuance of a new metal license plate, the

297 option of obtaining a county decal or a decal providing for the nation's motto, 'In God We  
298 Trust.' Such a decal shall be issued, upon request and free of charge, by a county tag agent  
299 with each new metal license plate."

### 300 SECTION 13.

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

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

310 "(b) Except as provided for in Code Section 40-2-22, the amount of commission permitted  
311 as compensation to tag agents under this Code section shall be \$1.00 per license plate ~~or~~  
312 ~~revalidation decal~~ issued or registration renewal processed during any calendar year.  
313 Twenty-five cents for each license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~ sold or registration renewal  
314 processed in excess of 4,000 during any one calendar year shall become the property of the  
315 county and shall be turned over to the fiscal authorities of the county by the tag agent to be  
316 remitted to the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund provided for under Chapter 17  
317 of Title 47. The remaining portion of such commissions shall be disposed of as provided  
318 in Code Section 40-2-34."

### 319 SECTION 14.

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

322 "(b) All applications for the registration of a delinquent vehicle shall, before being  
323 accepted by a tag agent, be first endorsed by a sheriff or a deputy sheriff, a chief of police  
324 or his or her designated representative, a state law enforcement officer, a tax commissioner,  
325 or a tax collector. The officer endorsing the delinquent application shall indicate, with his  
326 or her endorsement on the application, the total amount of the prescribed registration fee  
327 together with the 25 percent penalty provided in this Code section, and the full total of such  
328 amount shall be paid to the tag agent before any license plate or ~~revalidation decal~~  
329 registration renewal as provided for in this chapter shall be assigned to the applicant."

330 **SECTION 15.**

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

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

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

344 (d) ~~No later than January 1, 2006, the~~ The commissioner shall have installed within the  
345 department's computer information system applicable to the registration of motor vehicles  
346 the necessary program which ~~will~~ shall include in the information relating to the current  
347 license plate or ~~revalidation decal~~ registration renewal issued for an antique motor vehicle

348 the information relating to the authentic historical Georgia license plate authorized to be  
349 displayed on such antique motor vehicle."

350 **SECTION 16.**

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

353 "40-2-42.

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

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

372 (c) The commissioner shall provide appropriate procedures whereby, when the registered  
373 owner of a jointly owned motor vehicle is deceased, the license plate issued for the motor

374 vehicle may, upon appropriate application and payment of fees, be transferred to the  
375 surviving owner's name, provided that the surviving owner acquires a new certificate of  
376 title under subsection (d) or paragraph (1) of subsection (e) of Code Section 40-3-34 and  
377 makes the payment of appropriate ad valorem taxes."

#### 378 SECTION 17.

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

382 "40-2-44.

383 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, the owner of a motor vehicle  
384 shall immediately report the theft, loss, or mutilation of a license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~  
385 to the appropriate law enforcement agency or official, including but not limited to a  
386 municipal or county police department or officer, the county sheriff, the Department of  
387 Public Safety, or the Georgia State Patrol. ~~Said~~ Such owner shall obtain a copy of the  
388 police report and shall submit such copy to the commissioner with a fee of \$8.00 to obtain  
389 a duplicate license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~. Alternatively, the copy of the police report  
390 may be submitted to the applicant's county tag agent with a fee of \$8.00 in which case the  
391 county tag agent is authorized to issue a replacement license plate ~~or decal~~. In those  
392 instances in which a vehicle owner is unable to obtain a police report of such theft, loss,  
393 or mutilation of a license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~, the owner shall be authorized to  
394 submit to the appropriate law enforcement agency or official and to either the  
395 commissioner or to the county tag agent a sworn affidavit as to such theft, loss, or  
396 mutilation in lieu of a police report and obtain a replacement license plate ~~or decal~~. The  
397 county tag agent shall be entitled to retain as compensation for issuance of a replacement  
398 license plate ~~or decal~~ the same commission as provided for issuance of a new license plate

399 ~~or decal~~ under the terms and conditions provided in subsection (b) of Code Section  
400 40-2-33.

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

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

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

420 **SECTION 18.**  
421 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-45, relating to transferring license plate  
422 or revalidation decal for "salvage", "rebuilt", damaged, or demolished motor vehicles, by  
423 revising subsection (a) as follows:

424 "(a) No person shall transfer a license plate ~~or decal~~ from one vehicle to any other motor  
 425 vehicle which is a 'salvage' or 'rebuilt' motor vehicle as provided in Chapter 3 of this title  
 426 unless the owner of such vehicle submits satisfactory proof to the commissioner that the  
 427 motor vehicle inspection required by Code Section 40-3-37 has been performed and such  
 428 vehicle has been determined to be in full compliance with the law."

#### 429 **SECTION 19.**

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

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

439 (c) License plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed annually prior to the  
 440 end of the registration period and upon payment of a renewal fee to the department. ~~Such~~  
 441 ~~fee shall be the same amount that would be charged for a revalidation decal for such~~  
 442 ~~vehicle."~~

#### 443 **SECTION 20.**

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

446 "(b) A motor vehicle owner with a digital license plate shall renew the registration  
 447 annually as provided by this chapter. The department shall notify the digital license plate  
 448 provider upon satisfactory renewal. ~~Evidence of such renewal shall be displayed upon the~~

449 ~~digital license plate in a manner that indicates the year and month through which the~~  
 450 ~~registration of the vehicle shall be valid. Compliance with this subsection shall satisfy the~~  
 451 ~~revalidation decal requirements of this chapter."~~

#### 452 SECTION 21.

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

455 "(a) Motor vehicle owners who are residents of Georgia, upon complying with the motor  
 456 vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and, except as provided  
 457 in subsection (c) of this Code section, upon the payment of a fee of \$35.00 in addition to  
 458 the regular motor vehicle registration fee, shall be issued special personalized prestige  
 459 license plates by the commissioner. Special personalized license plates issued pursuant to  
 460 this Code section shall be subject to an additional annual registration fee of \$35.00 as a  
 461 condition of ~~obtaining an annual revalidation decal for~~ annual renewal of such registration  
 462 or an additional registration fee of \$175.00 as a condition of a five-year renewal of such  
 463 registration for such license plate which fee. The fees required by this Code section shall  
 464 be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and  
 465 shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34."

#### 466 SECTION 22.

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

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

**SECTION 23.**

474  
475 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-61, relating to license plates for  
476 U.S. Senators and Congressmen, state constitutional officers, Speaker of the House of  
477 Representatives, Justices of Supreme Court, Judges of Court of Appeals, and Public Service  
478 Commission members, as follows:

479 "40-2-61.

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

483 (b) The commissioner shall design and issue distinctive license plates to each United  
484 States Senator and Congressman elected from the State of Georgia, each state constitutional  
485 officer, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each Justice of the Supreme Court  
486 and each Judge of the Court of Appeals, and each member of the Public Service  
487 Commission to be placed on such official's personal motor vehicle. Each such distinctive  
488 license plate shall indicate the individual's elected office and no county name decal need  
489 be affixed to such plate as required pursuant to Code Section 40-2-9. The special license  
490 plate authorized by this Code section shall be issued to such elected official upon  
491 application and payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00 and upon compliance with the  
492 state laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and shall be transferred  
493 as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. Distinctive license plates issued pursuant to this  
494 Code section shall be renewed annually, and revalidation decals shall be issued upon  
495 compliance with the laws relating to registration and licensing and upon payment of subject  
496 to an additional registration fee of \$35.00 which shall as a condition of an annual renewal  
497 of a registration or an additional registration fee of \$175.00 as a condition of obtaining a  
498 five-year renewal of registration for such license plate. The fee required by this Code  
499 section shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time for collection of other  
500 registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. For

501 ~~purposes of this Code section, the term 'state constitutional officer' means the Governor,~~  
502 ~~Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State School Superintendent,~~  
503 ~~Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture, or Commissioner of Labor."~~

504 **SECTION 24.**  
505 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-62, relating to license plates for  
506 current and former members of the General Assembly, as follows:

507 "40-2-62.  
508 The commissioner shall mail special and distinctive license plates printed for members of  
509 the General Assembly and former members of the General Assembly who are hereby  
510 deemed to have emeritus status after having served in the General Assembly eight or more  
511 years to the local tag agent in the counties wherein such members or former members  
512 reside on or before the owner's registration period each year. Such special and distinctive  
513 license plates shall be issued only upon applications made to the local tag agent and  
514 payment of a \$25.00 manufacturing fee. License plates may be issued by the local tag  
515 agent upon a proper application and in accordance with the terms of this chapter. License  
516 plates issued pursuant to this Code section need not contain a place for the county name  
517 decal as required pursuant to Code Section 40-2-9, and no county name decal need be  
518 affixed to a license plate issued pursuant to this Code section. Special and distinctive  
519 license plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be ~~renewed annually, and~~  
520 ~~revalidation decals shall be issued upon compliance with the laws relating to registration~~  
521 ~~and licensing and upon payment of~~ subject to an additional registration fee of \$35.00 which  
522 as a condition of an annual renewal of a registration or an additional registration fee of  
523 \$175.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration for such license  
524 plate. The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at  
525 the time for collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as

526 provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The special license plates issued pursuant to this Code  
527 section shall be transferred to another vehicle as provided in Code Section 40-2-80."

528 **SECTION 25.**

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

531 "40-2-63.

532 The commissioner shall mail to the local tag agents special and distinctive license plates  
533 for the elected sheriffs in the counties of this state on or before the owner's registration  
534 period of each sheriff. The sheriffs shall make application with the local tag agent and  
535 shall pay a fee of \$25.00. Special sheriffs' license plates issued pursuant to this Code  
536 section shall be renewed annually, and revalidation decals shall be issued upon compliance  
537 ~~with the laws relating to registration and licensing and upon payment of an additional~~  
538 ~~registration fee of \$25.00 which~~ subject to an additional registration fee of \$25.00 as a  
539 condition of obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or an additional registration fee  
540 of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration for such license  
541 plate. The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at  
542 the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided  
543 in Code Section 40-2-34. License plates shall be issued by the local tag agents upon proper  
544 application and in accordance with the terms of Article 2 of this chapter. Only one special  
545 and distinctive license plate shall be issued to each elected sheriff; however, a sheriff may  
546 choose to use the sheriff's distinctive license plate either on the law enforcement vehicle  
547 assigned to such sheriff or on his or her personal vehicle."

548 **SECTION 26.**

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

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

### 559 SECTION 27.

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

562 "(a) Honorary consuls shall be issued license plates as prescribed in Code Section 40-2-31  
563 in duplicate for use on their official or private passenger automobiles, upon application and  
564 compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relative to the registration and licensing of  
565 motor vehicles, payment of the regular license fees for license plates as provided by law,  
566 payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, and payment of an additional annual registration  
567 fee of \$25.00 ~~which fee~~ as a condition of obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or  
568 an additional registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of  
569 registration for such license plate. The fee required by this Code section shall be collected  
570 by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be  
571 remitted as provided in Code Section 40-2-34, ~~shall be issued license plates as prescribed~~  
572 ~~in Code Section 40-2-31 in duplicate for use on their official or private passenger~~  
573 ~~automobiles.~~ Such license plates shall be fastened to both the front and the rear of the  
574 vehicle. No more than two sets of honorary consular corps license plates shall be issued  
575 to any country. Such plates shall not be used by any person after his or her appointment  
576 has ended."

577

**SECTION 28.**

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

581 "(b) Upon application and compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to the  
 582 registration and licensing of motor vehicles and the payment of any registration fees,  
 583 including the \$25.00 manufacturing fee and the \$35.00 special license plate fee ~~or the~~  
 584 ~~\$35.00 special license plate renewal fee, as applicable~~, official representatives of the Taipei  
 585 Economic and Cultural Representatives Office in the United States who maintain a  
 586 presence in Georgia shall be issued Foreign Organization license plates as prescribed in  
 587 Code Section 40-2-31 in duplicate. License plates issued pursuant to this Code section  
 588 shall be subject to an additional annual registration fee of \$35.00 as a condition of  
 589 obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or an additional registration fee of \$175.00  
 590 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration for such license plate. The  
 591 fee required by this Code section be collected by the county tag agent at the time of  
 592 collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code  
 593 Section 40-2-34. Such license plates shall be fastened to both the front and the rear of the  
 594 vehicle."

595

**SECTION 29.**

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

599 "(a)(1) Motor vehicle owners who are assigned or attached members of troop program  
 600 units of any branch of the active reserve components of the United States inside or  
 601 outside the State of Georgia shall be eligible to receive free motor vehicle license plates  
 602 for private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation. Motor

603 vehicle owners who are members of any National Guard unit in a state adjoining the State  
604 of Georgia and for whom there is no National Guard unit in the county of their residence  
605 shall be eligible to receive free motor vehicle plates for private passenger cars,  
606 motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation to identify such vehicle owner as  
607 a reservist. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle  
608 laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of  
609 this chapter. No person shall be entitled to more than one free motor vehicle license plate  
610 for any calendar year; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee  
611 provided for in Code Section 40-2-151 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a reservist  
612 shall be entitled to receive one additional such license plate. For each additional license  
613 plate for which an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual  
614 registration fee of \$25.00, ~~which fee~~ as a condition of obtaining an annual renewal of a  
615 registration or an additional registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a  
616 five-year renewal of registration for such license plate. The fee required by this paragraph  
617 shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration  
618 fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. Additional  
619 words or symbols in addition to numbers and letters prescribed by law shall be inscribed  
620 upon such license plates so as to identify distinctively the owner as a member of one of  
621 the following branches of the United States military reserve: Army, Navy, Marines, Air  
622 Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard. The commanding officer of each active reserve  
623 component program unit or the adjutant general of the National Guard unit of each  
624 neighboring state shall, upon request of any reserve member or National Guard member  
625 of that unit, respectively, furnish to that member approved documentation supporting the  
626 member's current membership in the respective reserve or National Guard unit. This  
627 documentation shall be presented ~~annually~~ to the tax commissioner of the county in  
628 which the reserve member or National Guard member applies for the special license plate  
629 under this Code section ~~and upon subsequent reregistration for each succeeding year.~~

630 (2) Motor vehicle owners who are retired from any branch of the active reserve  
631 components whose active reservists are eligible to obtain free motor vehicle license plates  
632 under paragraph (1) of this subsection, upon application for license plates and upon  
633 compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of  
634 motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of this chapter, shall be issued, free of  
635 charge, a license plate as prescribed in that article for private passenger cars, motorcycles,  
636 or trucks used for personal transportation. Each such retired member shall be entitled to  
637 no more than one such free plate for any calendar year; provided, however, that, upon  
638 payment of the regular license fee provided for in Code Section 40-2-151 and a  
639 manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a retired member shall be entitled to receive one additional  
640 such license plate. For each additional license plate for which an initial \$25.00 fee was  
641 required, there shall be an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00, ~~which fee~~ as a  
642 condition of obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or an additional registration fee  
643 of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration for such license  
644 plate. The fee required by this paragraph shall be collected by the county tag agent at the  
645 time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided  
646 in Code Section 40-2-34. The license plates issued pursuant to this paragraph shall, in  
647 addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by law, be identical to those issued  
648 pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection to members of the branch of the active  
649 reserve component from which that person retired. The commanding officer of each  
650 active reserve component program unit shall, upon request of any retired reserve member  
651 from that unit, furnish to that retired member approved documentation supporting the  
652 retired member's current retired membership status from that reserve unit. This  
653 documentation shall be presented to the tax commissioner of the county in which the  
654 retired reserve member applies for the special license plate under this Code section.

655 (3) The license plates issued pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection shall contain  
656 the word 'RETIREED' in the location of and in lieu of the name of the county of issuance."

**SECTION 30.**

657  
658 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-66, relating to license plates for active and  
659 retired members of the Georgia National Guard, by revising paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
660 subsection (a) as follows:

661 "(a)(1) Motor vehicle owners who are members of the Georgia National Guard, upon  
662 application for license plates and upon compliance with the state motor vehicle laws  
663 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of  
664 this chapter, shall be issued, free of charge, a license plate, as prescribed in that article for  
665 private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation. Each  
666 member of the Georgia National Guard shall be entitled to no more than one such free  
667 plate at a time; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee provided  
668 for in Code Section 48-10-2 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member shall be  
669 entitled to one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate for which  
670 an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual registration fee of  
671 \$25.00 ~~which fee~~ as a condition of obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or an  
672 additional registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of  
673 registration for such license plate. The fee required by this paragraph shall be collected  
674 by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be  
675 remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. Additional words or symbols,  
676 in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by law, shall be inscribed upon such  
677 license plates so as to identify distinctively the owner as a member of the Georgia  
678 National Guard. The adjutant general of Georgia shall, upon request of any member of  
679 that National Guard unit, furnish to that member approved documentation supporting the  
680 member's current membership in that National Guard unit. This documentation shall be  
681 presented ~~annually~~ to the tax commissioner of the county in which the National Guard  
682 member applies for the special license plate under this Code section ~~and upon subsequent~~  
683 ~~reregistration for each succeeding year.~~

684 (2) Motor vehicle owners who are retired members of the Georgia National Guard, upon  
685 application for license plates and upon compliance with the state motor vehicle laws  
686 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of  
687 this chapter, shall be issued, free of charge, a license plate as prescribed in that article for  
688 private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation. Each  
689 retired member of the Georgia National Guard shall be entitled to no more than one such  
690 free plate at a time; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee  
691 provided for in Code Section 48-10-2 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member shall  
692 be entitled to one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate for  
693 which an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual registration  
694 fee of \$25.00 ~~which fee~~ as a condition of obtaining an annual renewal of a registration  
695 or an additional registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal  
696 of registration for such license plate. The fee required by this paragraph shall be  
697 collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and  
698 shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The license plates  
699 issued pursuant to this paragraph shall, in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed  
700 by law, be identical to those issued pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection. The  
701 adjutant general of Georgia shall, upon request of any member retired from that National  
702 Guard unit, furnish to that retired member approved documentation supporting the  
703 member's retired membership status in that National Guard unit. This documentation  
704 shall be presented ~~annually~~ to the tax commissioner of the county in which the retired  
705 National Guard member applies for the special license plate under this Code section ~~and~~  
706 ~~upon subsequent reregistration for each succeeding year."~~

**SECTION 31.**

707  
708 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-67, relating to license plates for state  
709 commanders of nationally chartered veterans' organizations, by revising subsection (a) as  
710 follows:

711 "(a) The state commanders of nationally chartered veterans' organizations shall be issued  
712 license plates as prescribed in Code Section 40-2-31 for use on their official or private  
713 passenger automobiles, upon application and compliance with the state motor vehicle laws  
714 relative to the registration and licensing of motor vehicles, upon payment of the regular  
715 license fees for license plates as provided by law, and upon the payment of an additional  
716 initial fee of \$25.00 and an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 ~~which fee~~ as a  
717 condition of obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or an additional registration fee  
718 of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration for such license  
719 plate. The fee required by this subsection shall be collected by the county tag agent at the  
720 time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted as provided in Code  
721 Section 40-2-34, ~~shall be issued license plates as prescribed in Code Section 40-2-31 for~~  
722 ~~use on their official or private passenger automobiles, upon which,~~ For a license plate  
723 issued under this Code section, in lieu of the numbers prescribed by ~~said Code section~~,  
724 Code Section 40-2-31, there shall be such figures or symbols indicative of the office held  
725 by such individuals as may be prescribed by the commissioner."

**SECTION 32.**

726  
727 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-81, relating to license plates for  
728 members of the Georgia State Defense Force, as follows:

729 "40-2-81.

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

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

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

743 (B) Each member of the Georgia State Defense Force shall be entitled to no more than  
744 one such free license plate at a time; provided, however, that, upon payment of a  
745 manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member shall be entitled to one additional such license  
746 plate. For each additional license plate for which a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is  
747 required, there shall be an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 which fee as a  
748 condition of obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or an additional registration  
749 fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration for such  
750 license plate. The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the county tag  
751 agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state  
752 as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

753 (c) The commissioner shall design a Georgia State Defense Force member license plate.  
754 The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to  
755 enforce compliance with all state license laws relating to the use and operation of private  
756 passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, and trailers before issuing these license plates in lieu  
757 of the regular Georgia license plates. ~~The manufacturing fee for such special and~~  
758 ~~distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00.~~ The commissioner is specifically authorized to

759 promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure compliance in instances where  
760 such vehicles have been transferred or sold. ~~Such~~ Except as provided in subsection (e) of  
761 this Code section, such plates shall be nontransferable.

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

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

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

773 ~~(g) Should a member of the Georgia State Defense Force who has been issued a license~~  
774 ~~plate or license plates be discharged or otherwise separated from the Georgia State Defense~~  
775 ~~Force, the member shall forward his or her Georgia State Defense Force member license~~  
776 ~~plate or plates to the commissioner along with a certificate to the effect that such person~~  
777 ~~has been discharged or otherwise separated from the Georgia State Defense Force, and~~  
778 ~~thereupon the commissioner shall issue a regular license plate, at no additional charge, to~~  
779 ~~such former member of the Georgia State Defense Force to replace the Georgia State~~  
780 ~~Defense Force member plate or plates."~~

781 **SECTION 33.**

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

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

#### 790 SECTION 34.

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

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

#### 802 SECTION 35.

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

805 "(B) Each member or former member of the armed forces of the United States listed  
 806 in this subsection shall be entitled to no more than one such free license plate at a time;  
 807 provided, however, that, upon payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member  
 808 shall be entitled to one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate

809 for which a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is required, there shall be an additional annual  
 810 registration fee of \$25.00, ~~and such fee as a condition of obtaining an annual renewal~~  
 811 ~~of a registration or an additional registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining~~  
 812 ~~a five-year renewal of registration for such license plate. The fee required by this~~  
 813 ~~subparagraph shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other~~  
 814 registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34."

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

820 ~~(f)(g)~~ (g) Special license plates issued under this Code section, except as provided in  
 821 subparagraph (b)(2)(A) of this Code section, shall be ~~renewed annually with a revalidation~~  
 822 ~~decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31 without payment of an additional \$25.00 annual~~  
 823 ~~registration fee~~ subject to an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 as a condition of  
 824 obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or an additional registration fee of \$125.00  
 825 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration for such license plate. The  
 826 fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of  
 827 collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code  
 828 Section 40-2-34."

829 **SECTION 36.**

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

832 "(e) Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be ~~renewed annually with~~  
 833 ~~a revalidation decal, as provided in Code Section 40-2-31, without payment of an~~  
 834 ~~additional \$25.00 annual registration fee~~ subject to an additional annual registration fee of

835 \$25.00 as a condition of obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or an additional  
 836 registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration  
 837 for such license plate. The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the  
 838 county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to  
 839 the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

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

### 842 SECTION 37.

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

845 "(d) Any motor vehicle owner who is a resident of Georgia, other than one registering  
 846 under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with state laws relating to  
 847 registration and licensing of motor vehicles shall be issued such a special license plate upon  
 848 application therefor. ~~Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed~~  
 849 ~~annually with a revalidation decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31.~~ Upon payment  
 850 of all ad valorem taxes and other fees due at registration of a motor vehicle, an eligible  
 851 family member may apply for a Gold Star license plate. In order to qualify as an eligible  
 852 family member for purposes of this Code section, the person must be related to the fallen  
 853 service member as a spouse, mother, father, sibling, child, stepparent, or surviving spouse  
 854 of such service member's sibling. ~~Up to two free license plates shall be allowed for any~~  
 855 ~~eligible family member and they may purchase additional license plates for each motor~~  
 856 ~~vehicle they register in this state. If a Gold Star license plate is lost, damaged, or stolen,~~  
 857 ~~the eligible family member must pay the reasonable cost, to be established by the~~  
 858 ~~department, but not to exceed the cost of other specialty license plates, to replace the Gold~~  
 859 ~~Star license plate~~ An eligible family member shall be entitled to no more than two free  
 860 license plates at a time; provided, however, that an eligible family member shall be entitled

861 to additional license plates upon payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00. For each  
862 additional license plate for which a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is required, there shall be an  
863 additional annual registration fee of \$35.00 as a condition of obtaining an annual renewal  
864 of a registration or an additional registration fee of \$175.00 as a condition of obtaining a  
865 five-year renewal of registration for such license plate. The fee required by this Code  
866 section shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other  
867 registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

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

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

877 ~~(g) Renewal decals shall be issued at no cost to any person that received a free license~~  
878 ~~plate under the provisions of this Code section upon the payment of ad valorem taxes and~~  
879 ~~other registration fees, provided that the renewal is applied for on or within 30 days prior~~  
880 ~~to the renewal date of the eligible person. If the eligible person fails to renew within such~~  
881 ~~time, he or she shall pay a standard renewal fee and be subject to the standard penalties for~~  
882 ~~late payment of ad valorem taxes due on the motor vehicle. A special license plate issued~~  
883 to an eligible family member pursuant to this Code section shall be renewed at no cost.  
884 Any special license plate issued pursuant to this Code section for a fee shall be subject to  
885 an additional annual registration fee of \$35.00 as a condition of obtaining an annual  
886 renewal of a registration or an additional registration fee of \$175.00 as a condition of  
887 obtaining a five-year renewal of registration for such license plate. The fee required by this

888 Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other  
889 registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34."

890 **SECTION 38.**

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

895 "(C) 'Special license plate renewal fee' means ~~a \$35.00 fee~~ the fee required to be paid  
896 at the time a revalidation decal is issued the registration for a special license plate is  
897 renewed. For an annual renewal of a registration, such fee shall be \$35.00 and for a  
898 five-year renewal of a registration, such fee shall be \$175.00."

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

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

**SECTION 39.**

910  
911 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-86.1, relating to license plates promoting  
912 or supporting certain agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations or issued to qualified motor  
913 vehicles or owners with proceeds deposited in the general fund, by revising subsections (d)  
914 and (g) and subparagraph (l)(9)(B) as follows:

915 "(d) Any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered  
916 under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws  
917 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon the payment of a  
918 manufacturing fee of \$25.00 and a special license plate fee of \$35.00, in addition to the  
919 regular motor vehicle registration fee, shall be able to apply for a special license plate listed  
920 in subsection (l) of this Code section. ~~Revalidation decals shall be issued for special~~  
921 ~~license plates in the same manner as provided for general issue license plates, with the~~  
922 ~~addition of a~~ A \$35.00 special license plate renewal fee shall be required as a condition of  
923 obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or an additional registration fee of \$175.00  
924 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration for such license plate,  
925 provided that special license plates issued pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection (l) of this  
926 Code section shall be exempt from such special license plate renewal fee."

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

931 "(B) Should a certified firefighter or volunteer firefighter who has been issued a special  
932 and distinctive license plate be separated from such firefighter's department for any  
933 reason other than retirement from employment, the separated firefighter shall, within  
934 14 days of such separation, return such special and distinctive license plate to the  
935 issuing county tag agent. Upon receipt of such special and distinctive license plate, a  
936 county tag agent shall reissue a regular license plate ~~and the appropriate revalidation~~

937 ~~decals~~ for the applicable registration period, at no additional charge, to such former  
 938 firefighter to replace the special and distinctive license plate. Should a firefighter return  
 939 to service with the same or another fire department, the chief of the fire department  
 940 employing such firefighter shall secure the regular license plate of such person and  
 941 return same to the commissioner, along with a certificate to the effect that such person  
 942 has become a member of the fire department, and the effective date thereof, whereupon  
 943 the commissioner shall, upon application and upon the payment of a \$35.00  
 944 manufacturing fee and all other applicable registration and licensing fees at the time of  
 945 registration, reissue a special and distinctive license plate to such new member to  
 946 replace the returned regular license plate."

#### 947 **SECTION 40.**

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

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

#### 954 **SECTION 41.**

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

958 "~~(c) The fee for a new motor vehicle which is a passenger car for which the purchaser has~~  
 959 ~~paid state and local title ad valorem taxes and that is being registered as provided in~~  
 960 ~~subsection (d) of Code Section 40-2-20 shall be \$40.00 for the two-year registration period.~~  
 961 Upon the election of a five-year motor vehicle registration by an owner of an eligible motor

962 vehicle, the fees for the licensing of the operation of such eligible motor vehicle shall be  
963 five times the applicable amount set forth in subsection (a) of this Code section for the  
964 five-year registration period."

#### 965 **SECTION 42.**

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

967 "40-2-139.

968 (a) For purposes of aiding in the enforcement of any emission inspection certification  
969 requirements under Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12, any emission inspection station  
970 holding a valid certificate of authorization from the Department of Natural Resources shall  
971 electronically transmit notice of the issuance of an emission inspection certification to the  
972 department within seven days of such issuance. Such notice shall include the name and  
973 contact information of the emission inspection station, the vehicle identification number  
974 to which such certificate has been issued, and the make and model year of such motor  
975 vehicle. The department shall prescribe the form and manner of electronic transmission  
976 for the purposes of complying with this Code section.

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

982 (c)(1) The department shall monitor the reporting by emission inspection stations of the  
983 issuance of emission inspection certifications. When a five-year registration has been  
984 issued by the department for a vehicle identification number recorded in the department's  
985 motor vehicle records that is required to comply with emission certification requirements  
986 under Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12, the department shall annually verify that the  
987 required emission inspection certification notice has been transmitted. The department

988 shall notify the owner of a motor vehicle with a five-year registration period that lacks  
989 the required annual emission inspection certification. The department shall send such  
990 notice to the address of the owner of the motor vehicle shown in the records of the  
991 department unless such owner has consented to electronic notifications and  
992 communications pursuant to Code Section 40-1-9.

993 (2) It shall be the duty of the owner of a motor vehicle receiving notice pursuant to  
994 paragraph (1) of this subsection to obtain an emission inspection certification and provide  
995 proof of such certification to the department within 30 days of receipt of such notice. If  
996 proof of an emission inspection certification is not provided within the time period  
997 specified in this paragraph, the owner's motor vehicle registration shall be suspended  
998 immediately by operation of law by the department. When such proof is provided and  
999 the owner pays a \$60.00 restoration fee, the suspension shall terminate. If any restoration  
1000 fee provided for in this Code section is paid to the county tax commissioner, the county  
1001 shall retain \$10.00 thereof as a collection fee."

1002 **SECTION 43.**

1003 Code Section 48-5C-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to alternative ad  
1004 valorem taxation of motor vehicles and title ad valorem tax fee, is amended by revising  
1005 paragraph (5) of subsection (d) as follows:

1006 "(5) Any motor vehicle subject to state and local title ad valorem tax fees under  
1007 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall continue to be subject to the  
1008 title, license plate, ~~revalidation decal~~, and registration requirements and applicable fees  
1009 as otherwise provided in Title 40 in the same manner as motor vehicles which are not  
1010 subject to state and local title ad valorem tax fees under paragraph (1) of subsection (b)  
1011 of this Code section."

1012 **SECTION 44.**

1013 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

1014 **SECTION 45.**

1015 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.