

House Committee on Motor Vehicles offers the following substitute to SB 76:

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 authorize the
12 operation of multipurpose off-highway vehicles on certain highways; to revise and provide
13 for definitions; to provide for conforming changes; to provide for related matters; to provide
14 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

S. B. 76 (SUB)

- 1 -

SECTION 1.

16

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

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

26

SECTION 2.

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

30 "(a) Beginning July 1, 1992, it shall be unlawful for any county to and no county shall
31 register any responsible motor vehicle subject to any requirement under Code Section
32 12-9-45 pursuant to or subject to the requirements of Chapter 2 of Title 40 without proof
33 of a valid certificate of emission inspection issued pursuant to Code Section 12-9-48
34 indicating that such responsible motor vehicle satisfied all applicable requirements of Code
35 ~~Section~~ Sections 12-9-45 and ~~Code Section~~ 12-9-48. In applying for a motor vehicle
36 registration for a responsible motor vehicle subject to any requirement under Code Section
37 12-9-45, the application shall be accompanied by proof of the issuance of a certificate of
38 emission inspection issued pursuant to Code Section 12-9-48. A valid certificate of
39 emission inspection shall be submitted during each inspection term of a five-year motor
40 vehicle registration. Any county which registers any responsible motor vehicle without
41 proof of a certificate of emission inspection or fails to suspend a five-year registration of

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

44 **SECTION 3.**

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

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

55 **SECTION 4.**

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

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

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

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

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

73 **SECTION 5.**

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

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

81 **SECTION 6.**

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

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

SECTION 7.

88

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

92 "40-2-8.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

127 **SECTION 8.**

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

129 "40-2-10.1.

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

134 **SECTION 9.**

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

138 "40-2-20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

235 **SECTION 10.**

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

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

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

245 **SECTION 11.**

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

248 "40-2-30.

249 An applicant may purchase a vehicle license plate or ~~revalidation decal~~ required
250 registration renewal ~~by mail~~; by mailing a properly completed application form to the tag
251 agent of the county of his or her residence along with a bank check or money order in the
252 amount of the license fee and all ad valorem taxes due thereon plus an additional fee of
253 \$1.00."

254 **SECTION 12.**

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

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

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

267 (d) ~~In those years in which a new license plate is not issued and the license plate was not~~
268 ~~issued pursuant to Article 2B of this chapter, a revalidation decal with a distinctive serial~~
269 ~~number shall be issued and affixed in the space provided on the license plate issued to the~~
270 ~~applicant which shall indicate the year and month through which the registration of the~~

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

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

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

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

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

297 Trust.' Such a decal shall be issued, upon request and free of charge, by a county tag agent
298 with each new metal license plate."

299 **SECTION 13.**

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

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

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

317 **SECTION 14.**

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

320 "(b) All applications for the registration of a delinquent vehicle shall, before being
321 accepted by a tag agent, be first endorsed by a sheriff or a deputy sheriff, a chief of police

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

328 **SECTION 15.**

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

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

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

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

348 **SECTION 16.**

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

351 "40-2-42.

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

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

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

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

376 **SECTION 17.**

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

380 "40-2-44.

381 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, the owner of a motor vehicle
382 shall immediately report the theft, loss, or mutilation of a license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~
383 to the appropriate law enforcement agency or official, including but not limited to a
384 municipal or county police department or officer, the county sheriff, the Department of
385 Public Safety, or the Georgia State Patrol. ~~Said~~ Such owner shall obtain a copy of the
386 police report and shall submit such copy to the commissioner with a fee of \$8.00 to obtain
387 a duplicate license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~. Alternatively, the copy of the police report
388 may be submitted to the applicant's county tag agent with a fee of \$8.00 in which case the
389 county tag agent is authorized to issue a replacement license plate ~~or decal~~. In those
390 instances in which a vehicle owner is unable to obtain a police report of such theft, loss,
391 or mutilation of a license plate ~~or revalidation decal~~, the owner shall be authorized to
392 submit to the appropriate law enforcement agency or official and to either the
393 commissioner or to the county tag agent a sworn affidavit as to such theft, loss, or
394 mutilation in lieu of a police report and obtain a replacement license plate ~~or decal~~. The
395 county tag agent shall be entitled to retain as compensation for issuance of a replacement
396 license plate ~~or decal~~ the same commission as provided for issuance of a new license plate
397 ~~or decal~~ under the terms and conditions provided in subsection (b) of Code Section
398 40-2-33.

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

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

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

418 **SECTION 18.**

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

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

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

427 **SECTION 19.**

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

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

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

441 **SECTION 20.**

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

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

450 **SECTION 21.**

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

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

464 **SECTION 22.**

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

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

472 **SECTION 23.**

473 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-61, relating to license plates for
 474 U.S. Senators and Congressmen, state constitutional officers, Speaker of the House of

475 Representatives, Justices of Supreme Court, Judges of Court of Appeals, and Public Service
476 Commission members, as follows:

477 "40-2-61.

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

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

502 **SECTION 24.**

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

505 "40-2-62.

506 The commissioner shall mail special and distinctive license plates printed for members of
507 the General Assembly and former members of the General Assembly who are hereby
508 deemed to have emeritus status after having served in the General Assembly eight or more
509 years to the local tag agent in the counties wherein such members or former members
510 reside on or before the owner's registration period each year. Such special and distinctive
511 license plates shall be issued only upon applications made to the local tag agent and
512 payment of a \$25.00 manufacturing fee. License plates may be issued by the local tag
513 agent upon a proper application and in accordance with the terms of this chapter. License
514 plates issued pursuant to this Code section need not contain a place for the county name
515 decal as required pursuant to Code Section 40-2-9, and no county name decal need be
516 affixed to a license plate issued pursuant to this Code section. Special and distinctive
517 license plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be ~~renewed annually, and~~
518 ~~revalidation decals shall be issued upon compliance with the laws relating to registration~~
519 ~~and licensing and upon payment of~~ subject to an additional registration fee of \$35.00 which
520 as a condition of an annual renewal of a registration or an additional registration fee of
521 \$175.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration for such license
522 plate. The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the county tag agent at
523 the time for collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as
524 provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The special license plates issued pursuant to this Code
525 section shall be transferred to another vehicle as provided in Code Section 40-2-80."

526 **SECTION 25.**

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

529 "40-2-63.

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

546 **SECTION 26.**

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

549 "(b) License plates issued pursuant to this Code section need not contain a place for the
550 county name decal as required pursuant to Code Section 40-2-9, and a county name decal
551 need not be affixed to a license plate issued pursuant to this Code section. Special and

552 distinctive license plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be renewed annually;
553 ~~and free revalidation decals shall be issued upon compliance with the laws relating to~~
554 ~~registration and licensing~~ without payment of an annual renewal fee. The special license
555 plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred to another vehicle as
556 provided in Code Section 40-2-80."

557 **SECTION 27.**

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

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

575 **SECTION 28.**

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

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

593 **SECTION 29.**

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

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

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

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

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

655 **SECTION 30.**

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

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

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

705 **SECTION 31.**

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

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

724 **SECTION 32.**

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

727 "40-2-81.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

779 **SECTION 33.**

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

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

788 **SECTION 34.**

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

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

800 **SECTION 35.**

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

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

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

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

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

827 **SECTION 36.**

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

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

833 \$25.00 as a condition of obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or an additional
 834 registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration
 835 for such license plate. The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the
 836 county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to
 837 the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

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

840 **SECTION 37.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

888 **SECTION 38.**

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

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

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

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

908 **SECTION 39.**

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

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

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

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

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

945 **SECTION 40.**

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

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

952 **SECTION 41.**

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

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

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

963 **SECTION 42.**

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

965 "40-2-139.

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

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

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

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

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

1000 **SECTION 43.**

1001 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-6-362, relating to operating low-speed and
 1002 multipurpose off-highway vehicles on highways, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

1003 "(b) Multipurpose off-highway vehicles shall be operated only on highways that are part
 1004 of a county road system and shall be authorized to cross highways that are part of a
 1005 municipal street system or are part of the state highway system only be authorized to be
 1006 operated on highways with a maximum speed limit of 60 miles per hour or less."

1007 **SECTION 44.**

1008 Code Section 48-5C-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to alternative ad
 1009 valorem taxation of motor vehicles and title ad valorem tax fee, is amended by revising
 1010 paragraph (5) of subsection (d) as follows:

S. B. 76 (SUB)

1011 "(5) Any motor vehicle subject to state and local title ad valorem tax fees under
1012 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall continue to be subject to the
1013 title, license plate, ~~revalidation decal~~, and registration requirements and applicable fees
1014 as otherwise provided in Title 40 in the same manner as motor vehicles which are not
1015 subject to state and local title ad valorem tax fees under paragraph (1) of subsection (b)
1016 of this Code section."

1017 **SECTION 45.**

1018 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2027.

1019 **SECTION 46.**

1020 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.