

The House Committee on Rules 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 provide for
12 additional military medal awards eligible for special veteran license plates; to provide for a
13 specialty license plate for United States Navy submarine service members; to authorize the
14 operation of multipurpose off-highway vehicles on certain highways; to revise and provide
15 for definitions; to provide for conforming changes; to provide for related matters; to provide
16 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

17 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."

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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

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

46 **SECTION 3.**

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

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

57 **SECTION 4.**

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

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

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

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

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

75 **SECTION 5.**

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

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

83 **SECTION 6.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

129 SECTION 8.

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

131 "40-2-10.1.

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

136 SECTION 9.

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

140 "40-2-20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 11.

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

250 "40-2-30.

251 An applicant may purchase a vehicle license plate or ~~revalidation decal~~ required
252 registration renewal ~~by mail~~; by mailing a properly completed application form to the tag
253 agent of the county of his or her residence along with a bank check or money order in the
254 amount of the license fee and all ad valorem taxes due thereon plus an additional fee of
255 \$1.00."

SECTION 12.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

295 ~~(g)(e)~~ The commissioner shall furnish without cost to each tag agent reflective adhesive

296 decals in sufficient number, upon which there shall be printed the nation's motto, 'In God

297 We Trust.' A tag agent shall offer, upon such issuance of a new metal license plate, the

298 option of obtaining a county decal or a decal providing for the nation's motto, 'In God We

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

301 **SECTION 13.**

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

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

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

SECTION 16.

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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 distinctively 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."~~

SECTION 21.

452
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."

SECTION 22.

466
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."

SECTION 24.

504
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."

SECTION 25.

528
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."

SECTION 26.

548
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."~~

707

SECTION 31.

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."

726

SECTION 32.

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 paragraph (1) of subsection (a), subparagraph (b)(2)(B), and subsections
805 (e.1) and (f) as follows:

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

808 (A) Medal of Honor;

- 809 (B) Bronze Star Medal;
810 (C) Silver Star Medal;
811 (D) Distinguished Service Cross;
812 (E) Navy Cross;
813 (F) Air Force Cross;
814 (G) Defense Distinguished Service Medal;
815 (H) Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal;
816 (I) Distinguished Service Medal;
817 (J) Navy Distinguished Service Medal;
818 (K) Air Force Distinguished Service Medal;
819 (L) Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal;
820 (M) Defense Superior Service Medal;
821 (N) Legion of Merit;
822 (O) Distinguished Flying Cross;
823 (P) Purple Heart;
824 (Q) Air Medal;
825 (R) Soldier's Medal; and
826 (S) Meritorious Service Medal;
827 (T) Navy Corps Medal;
828 (U) Marine Corps Medal;
829 (V) Airman's Medal;
830 (W) Coast Guard Medal; and
831 (X) Combat Infantryman Badge."

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

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

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

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

856 SECTION 36.

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

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

862 \$25.00 as a condition of obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or an additional
 863 registration fee of \$125.00 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration
 864 for such license plate. The fee required by this Code section shall be collected by the
 865 county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to
 866 the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

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

869 **SECTION 37.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

917 **SECTION 38.**

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

919 "40-2-85.5.

920 (a)(1) Motor vehicle owners who are members of the United States Navy submarine
921 service shall be eligible to receive special and distinctive vehicle license plates for private
922 passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, or recreational vehicles used for personal
923 transportation. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor
924 vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in
925 Article 2 of this chapter.

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

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

935 (b) A person who qualifies for the special and distinctive license plate pursuant to
936 subsection (a) of this Code section shall make application therefor with the commissioner
937 and include the requisite fee. The commissioner shall design a distinctive license plate as
938 provided in subsection (c) of this Code section and issue the distinctive license plates to
939 qualifying applicants. There shall be no minimum required number of applicants for such
940 distinctive license plate. The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and regulations

941 as may be necessary to enforce compliance with all state license laws relating to the use
 942 and operation of private passenger cars and trucks before issuing these license plates in lieu
 943 of the regular Georgia license plates. The additional manufacturing fee for such special
 944 and distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00. The commissioner is specifically authorized
 945 to promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure compliance in instances where
 946 such vehicles have been transferred or sold.

947 (c) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates issued by this Code section shall be
 948 as prescribed in Article 2 of this chapter for private passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, or
 949 recreational vehicles used for personal transportation, except that the commissioner shall
 950 include a special design to identify the owner as a member of the United States Navy
 951 submarine service.

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

954 **SECTION 39.**

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

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

963 "(d) Any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered
 964 under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws
 965 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon the payment of the
 966 appropriate fees in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee shall be able to

967 apply for a special license plate listed in this Code section. ~~Revalidation decals shall be~~
 968 ~~issued for special license plates in the same manner as provided for general issue license~~
 969 ~~plates."~~

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

974 SECTION 40.

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

979 "(d) Any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered
 980 under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws
 981 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon the payment of a
 982 manufacturing fee of \$25.00 and a special license plate fee of \$35.00, in addition to the
 983 regular motor vehicle registration fee, shall be able to apply for a special license plate listed
 984 in subsection (l) of this Code section. ~~Revalidation decals shall be issued for special~~
 985 ~~license plates in the same manner as provided for general issue license plates, with the~~
 986 ~~addition of a~~ A \$35.00 special license plate renewal fee shall be required as a condition of
 987 obtaining an annual renewal of a registration or an additional registration fee of \$175.00
 988 as a condition of obtaining a five-year renewal of registration for such license plate,
 989 provided that special license plates issued pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection (l) of this
 990 Code section shall be exempt from such special license plate renewal fee."

991 "(g) An applicant may request a special license plate any time during the applicant's
 992 registration period. ~~If such a license plate is to replace a current valid license plate, the~~

993 ~~special license plate shall be issued with appropriate decals attached,~~ upon the payment of
994 any applicable registration fees, the manufacturing fee, and the special license plate fee."

995 "(B) Should a certified firefighter or volunteer firefighter who has been issued a special
996 and distinctive license plate be separated from such firefighter's department for any
997 reason other than retirement from employment, the separated firefighter shall, within
998 14 days of such separation, return such special and distinctive license plate to the
999 issuing county tag agent. Upon receipt of such special and distinctive license plate, a
1000 county tag agent shall reissue a regular license plate ~~and the appropriate revalidation~~
1001 ~~decals~~ for the applicable registration period, at no additional charge, to such former
1002 firefighter to replace the special and distinctive license plate. Should a firefighter return
1003 to service with the same or another fire department, the chief of the fire department
1004 employing such firefighter shall secure the regular license plate of such person and
1005 return same to the commissioner, along with a certificate to the effect that such person
1006 has become a member of the fire department, and the effective date thereof, whereupon
1007 the commissioner shall, upon application and upon the payment of a \$35.00
1008 manufacturing fee and all other applicable registration and licensing fees at the time of
1009 registration, reissue a special and distinctive license plate to such new member to
1010 replace the returned regular license plate."

1011 **SECTION 41.**

1012 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-135, relating to revocation and seizure of
1013 license plates and renewal decals, by revising subsection (c) as follows:

1014 "(c) Any state or county law enforcement officer or any special agent or enforcement
1015 officer appointed under Code Section 40-2-134 may, upon the direction or request of the
1016 commissioner, go upon public or private property to seize a license plate ~~or renewal decal~~
1017 which has been revoked as provided in subsection (a) of this Code section."

1018 **SECTION 42.**

1019 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-151, relating to annual license fees for
1020 operation of vehicles, fee for permanent licensing of certain trailers, and fee for new
1021 passenger car with paid title ad valorem taxes, by revising subsection (c) as follows:

1022 "~~(c) The fee for a new motor vehicle which is a passenger car for which the purchaser has~~
1023 ~~paid state and local title ad valorem taxes and that is being registered as provided in~~
1024 ~~subsection (d) of Code Section 40-2-20 shall be \$40.00 for the two-year registration period.~~
1025 Upon the election of a five-year motor vehicle registration by an owner of an eligible motor
1026 vehicle, the fees for the licensing of the operation of such eligible motor vehicle shall be
1027 five times the applicable amount set forth in subsection (a) of this Code section for the
1028 five-year registration period."

1029 **SECTION 43.**

1030 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

1031 "40-2-139.

1032 (a) For purposes of aiding in the enforcement of any emission inspection certification
1033 requirements under Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12, any emission inspection station
1034 holding a valid certificate of authorization from the Department of Natural Resources shall
1035 electronically transmit notice of the issuance of an emission inspection certification to the
1036 department within seven days of such issuance. Such notice shall include the name and
1037 contact information of the emission inspection station, the vehicle identification number
1038 to which such certificate has been issued, and the make and model year of such motor
1039 vehicle. The department shall prescribe the form and manner of electronic transmission
1040 for the purposes of complying with this Code section.

1041 (b) The department shall identify when a motor vehicle owner is required to comply with
1042 emission inspection certification requirements under Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12, and
1043 no motor vehicle registration or renewal thereof shall be issued without notice to the

1044 department pursuant to this Code section that an emission inspection certification has been
1045 issued for such vehicle.

1046 (c)(1) The department shall monitor the reporting by emission inspection stations of the
1047 issuance of emission inspection certifications. When a five-year registration has been
1048 issued by the department for a vehicle identification number recorded in the department's
1049 motor vehicle records that is required to comply with emission certification requirements
1050 under Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 12, the department shall annually verify that the
1051 required emission inspection certification notice has been transmitted. The department
1052 shall notify the owner of a motor vehicle with a five-year registration period that lacks
1053 the required annual emission inspection certification. The department shall send such
1054 notice to the address of the owner of the motor vehicle shown in the records of the
1055 department unless such owner has consented to electronic notifications and
1056 communications pursuant to Code Section 40-1-9.

1057 (2) It shall be the duty of the owner of a motor vehicle receiving notice pursuant to
1058 paragraph (1) of this subsection to obtain an emission inspection certification and provide
1059 proof of such certification to the department within 30 days of receipt of such notice. If
1060 proof of an emission inspection certification is not provided within the time period
1061 specified in this paragraph, the owner's motor vehicle registration shall be suspended
1062 immediately by operation of law by the department. When such proof is provided and
1063 the owner pays a \$60.00 restoration fee, the suspension shall terminate. If any restoration
1064 fee provided for in this Code section is paid to the county tax commissioner, the county
1065 shall retain \$10.00 thereof as a collection fee."

1066 **SECTION 44.**

1067 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-6-362, relating to operating low-speed and
1068 multipurpose off-highway vehicles on highways, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

1069 ~~“(b) Multipurpose off-highway vehicles shall be operated only on highways that are part~~
1070 ~~of a county road system and shall be authorized to cross highways that are part of a~~
1071 ~~municipal street system or are part of the state highway system~~ only be authorized to be
1072 operated on highways with a maximum speed limit of 60 miles per hour or less.”

1073 **SECTION 45.**

1074 Code Section 48-5C-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to alternative ad
1075 valorem taxation of motor vehicles and title ad valorem tax fee, is amended by revising
1076 paragraph (5) of subsection (d) as follows:

1077 “(5) Any motor vehicle subject to state and local title ad valorem tax fees under
1078 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall continue to be subject to the
1079 title, license plate, ~~revalidation decal~~, and registration requirements and applicable fees
1080 as otherwise provided in Title 40 in the same manner as motor vehicles which are not
1081 subject to state and local title ad valorem tax fees under paragraph (1) of subsection (b)
1082 of this Code section.”

1083 **SECTION 46.**

1084 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2027.

1085 **SECTION 47.**

1086 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.