

House Bill 14

By: Representative Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to prestige license plates and special license plates for certain persons and vehicles,  
3 so as to provide for the issuance of a special and distinctive license plate for veteran spouses  
4 in certain instances; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
9 prestige license plates and special license plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended  
10 by revising Code Section 40-2-85.1, relating to special and distinctive license plates for  
11 certain veterans, as follows:

12 "40-2-85.1.

13 (a) For purposes of this Code section, the term:

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

16 (A) Medal of Honor;

- 17 (B) Bronze Star Medal;
- 18 (C) Silver Star Medal;
- 19 (D) Distinguished Service Cross;
- 20 (E) Navy Cross;
- 21 (F) Air Force Cross;
- 22 (G) Defense Distinguished Service Medal;
- 23 (H) Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal;
- 24 (I) Distinguished Service Medal;
- 25 (J) Navy Distinguished Service Medal;
- 26 (K) Air Force Distinguished Service Medal;
- 27 (L) Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal;
- 28 (M) Defense Superior Service Medal;
- 29 (N) Legion of Merit;
- 30 (O) Distinguished Flying Cross;
- 31 (P) Purple Heart;
- 32 (Q) Air Medal; and
- 33 (R) Soldier's Medal.

34 (2) 'Served during active military combat' means active duty service in World War I,  
35 World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, the Global  
36 War on Terrorism as defined by Presidential Executive Order 13289, Section 2, the war  
37 in Afghanistan, or the war in Iraq, which includes either Operation Iraqi Freedom or  
38 Operation Enduring Freedom.

39 (3) 'Veteran' means a former member of the armed forces of the United States who is  
40 discharged from the armed forces under conditions other than dishonorable.

41 (4) 'Woman veteran' and ~~'women veterans'~~ means a former members member of the  
42 armed forces of the United States who ~~are~~ is female and discharged from the armed  
43 forces under conditions other than dishonorable.

44 (b)(1) Motor vehicle and trailer owners who are veterans or women veterans, who have  
45 received a military medal award, or who served during active military combat shall be  
46 eligible to receive special and distinctive vehicle license plates for private passenger cars,  
47 motorcycles, trucks, or recreational vehicles used for personal transportation. Such  
48 license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to  
49 registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this chapter.

50 (2)(A) Motor vehicle and trailer owners who are veterans or women veterans, who  
51 have received a military medal award, or who served during active military combat  
52 shall be issued upon application for and upon compliance with the state motor vehicle  
53 laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles a veteran's license plate, a  
54 woman veteran's license plate, a military medal award recipient license plate, or a  
55 commemorative service license plate for service during active military combat. One  
56 such license plate shall be issued without the requisite registration fee, manufacturing  
57 fee, or annual registration fee.

58 (B) Each member or former member of the armed forces of the United States listed in  
59 this subsection shall be entitled to no more than one such free license plate at a time;  
60 provided, however, that upon payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member  
61 shall be entitled to one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate  
62 for which a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is required, there shall be an additional annual  
63 registration fee of \$25.00, and such fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the  
64 time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided  
65 in Code Section 40-2-34.

66 (c) The commissioner shall design a veteran's license plate, a woman veteran's license  
67 plate, a military medal award recipient license plate, a veteran spouse's license plate, and  
68 a license plate to commemorate service with the United States armed forces during active  
69 military combat. The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may  
70 be necessary to enforce compliance with all state license laws relating to the use and

71 operation of private passenger cars, motorcycles, trucks, and trailers before issuing such  
72 license plates in lieu of the regular Georgia license plates. The manufacturing fee for ~~such~~  
73 veteran spouse special and distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00. The commissioner  
74 is specifically authorized to promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure  
75 compliance in instances where such vehicles have been transferred or sold. Except as  
76 provided in subsection (e) of this Code section, such plates shall be nontransferable.

77 (d) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of  
78 this chapter for private passenger cars, motorcycles, trucks, recreational vehicles, and  
79 trailers used for personal transportation. Such plates shall contain such words or symbols,  
80 in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by law, so as to identify distinctively the  
81 owners who are veterans, women veterans, or spouses of veterans; who are recipients of  
82 a military medal award; or who served during active military combat and shall additionally  
83 identify distinctly the owner as a current or former member of one of the following  
84 branches of the armed forces of the United States: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or  
85 Coast Guard or the spouse of a veteran of one of such branches. License plates issued  
86 pursuant to this Code section need not contain a place for the county name decal as  
87 provided in Code Section 40-2-9.

88 (e) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between  
89 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. The spouse of a deceased veteran or of a  
90 deceased person who received a military medal award or who served during active military  
91 combat shall continue to be eligible to be issued a ~~distinctive personalized veteran spouse's~~  
92 license plate as provided in this Code section for any vehicle owned by such person,  
93 ownership of which is transferred to the surviving spouse or for any other vehicle owned  
94 by such surviving spouse either at the time of the qualifying person's death or acquired  
95 thereafter, so long as such surviving spouse does not remarry.

96 ~~(e.1) The spouse of any person eligible to be issued a special license plate under this Code~~  
97 ~~section shall also be eligible for such license plate, provided that no motor vehicle is~~

98 ~~registered in the name of the eligible person and all other requirements relating to~~  
99 ~~registration and licensing relative to motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this~~  
100 ~~chapter have been satisfied.~~

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

105 **SECTION 2.**

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