

House Bill 695 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Epps of the 144th, England of the 116th, Nimmer of the 178th, McCall of the 33rd, Dickey of the 140th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 registration and licensing of motor vehicles, so as to allow for the waiver of certain
3 requirements for license plates relating to vehicles of state and political subdivisions; to
4 establish a special license plate honoring Georgia's working forests and the Georgia Forestry
5 Foundation; to change the amount dedicated to a sponsoring agency, fund, or nonprofit
6 corporation related to a special license plate promoting dog and cat sterilization; to provide
7 for related matters; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to provide
8 for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 SECTION 1.

11 Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration and
12 licensing of motor vehicles, is amended in Code Section 40-2-37, relating to registration and
13 licensing of vehicles of state and political subdivisions, by revising subsection (c) as follows:
14 "(c) All license plates issued to government vehicles pursuant to this Code section shall
15 be marked in such a manner as to indicate the specific type of governmental unit operating
16 the vehicle. These markings shall be prominently displayed and shall consist of one of the
17 following appropriate legends: 'STATE,' 'CITY,' 'COUNTY,' 'AUTHORITY,' or 'BOARD.'
18 In addition, each such license plate shall bear a county identification strip indicating the
19 county in which the vehicle is based except that vehicles owned by the state shall not be
20 required to bear such county identification strip. The commissioner shall be authorized to
21 grant a waiver of the requirements of this subsection such that regular Georgia license
22 plates may be issued for any vehicle or vehicles owned by the State of Georgia, any
23 municipality of this state, or any other political subdivision of this state upon finding
24 issuance of such waiver to be in the best interest of public safety, public welfare, or
25 efficient administration."

26 **SECTION 2.**

27 Said chapter is further amended in subsection (l) of Code Section 40-2-86, relating to special
28 license plates promoting and supporting certain beneficial projects, agencies, funds, or
29 nonprofit corporations, by revising paragraph (6) as follows:

30 ~~"(6) Reserved. Special license plates promoting the dog and cat reproductive sterilization~~
31 ~~support program of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The funds raised by the sale~~
32 ~~of these special license plates shall be disbursed to the Georgia Department of~~
33 ~~Agriculture and shall be deposited in the special fund for support of the dog and cat~~
34 ~~reproductive sterilization support program created by Code Section 4-15-1 and Article~~
35 ~~III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(m) of the Constitution of the State of Georgia."~~

36 **SECTION 3.**

37 Said chapter is further amended in subsection (m) of Code Section 40-2-86, relating to
38 special license plates promoting and supporting certain beneficial projects, agencies, funds,
39 or nonprofit corporations, by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

40 "(14) A special license plate honoring Georgia's working forests and the benefits they
41 provide to Georgians, with the words '#1 in Forestry' to be displayed across the bottom.
42 The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed as provided
43 in paragraph (1) of this subsection to the Georgia Forestry Foundation."

44 **SECTION 4.**

45 Said chapter is further amended in subsection (n) of Code Section 40-2-86, relating to special
46 license plates promoting and supporting certain beneficial projects, agencies, funds, or
47 nonprofit corporations, by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

48 "(7) A special license plate promoting the dog and cat reproductive sterilization support
49 program of the Department of Agriculture. The funds raised by the sale of this special
50 license plate shall be disbursed to the Department of Agriculture and shall be deposited
51 in the special fund for support of the dog and cat reproductive sterilization support
52 program created by Code Section 4-15-1 and Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(m) of
53 the Constitution of the State of Georgia."

54 **SECTION 5.**

55 In accordance with the requirements of Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(n) of the
56 Constitution of the State of Georgia, this Act shall not become law unless the requisite
57 two-thirds' majority vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives is received.

58

SECTION 6.

59 (a) Except as provided for in subsection (b) of this section, this Act shall become effective
60 on July 1, 2018.

61 (b) Section 3 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2019.

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SECTION 7.

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