

House Bill 717

By: Representatives Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, Yates of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Smith of the 125<sup>th</sup>, Jordan of the 77<sup>th</sup>, Howard of the 124<sup>th</sup>, and others

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 a woman veteran's license plate; to provide for definitions; to provide for  
4 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

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

11 "40-2-85.1.

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

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

15 (A) Medal of Honor;

16 (B) Bronze Star Medal;

17 (C) Silver Star Medal;

18 (D) Distinguished Service Cross;

19 (E) Navy Cross;

20 (F) Air Force Cross;

21 (G) Defense Distinguished Service Medal;

22 (H) Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal;

23 (I) Distinguished Service Medal;

24 (J) Navy Distinguished Service Medal;

25 (K) Air Force Distinguished Service Medal;

26 (L) Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal;

- 27 (M) Defense Superior Service Medal;  
 28 (N) Legion of Merit;  
 29 (O) Distinguished Flying Cross;  
 30 (P) Purple Heart; and  
 31 (Q) Air Medal.

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

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

39 (4) 'Woman veteran' and 'women veterans' means former female members of the armed  
 40 forces of the United States who are discharged from the armed forces under conditions  
 41 other than dishonorable.

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

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

57 (B) Each member or former member of the armed forces of the United States listed in  
 58 this subsection shall be entitled to no more than one such free license plate at a time;  
 59 provided, however, that upon payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member  
 60 shall be entitled to one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate  
 61 for which a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is required, there shall be an additional annual  
 62 registration fee of \$25.00, and such ~~which~~ fee shall be collected by the county tag agent

63 at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as  
64 provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

65 (c) The commissioner shall design a veteran's license plate, a woman veteran's license  
66 plate, a military medal award recipient license plate, and a license plate to commemorate  
67 service with the United States armed forces during active military combat. The  
68 commissioner shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to enforce  
69 compliance with all state license laws relating to the use and operation of private passenger  
70 cars, motorcycles, trucks, and trailers before issuing ~~these~~ such license plates in lieu of the  
71 regular Georgia license plates. The manufacturing fee for such special and distinctive  
72 license plates shall be \$25.00. The commissioner is specifically authorized to promulgate  
73 all rules and regulations necessary to ensure compliance in instances where such vehicles  
74 have been transferred or sold. Except as provided in subsection (e) of this Code section,  
75 such plates shall be nontransferable.

76 (d) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of  
77 this chapter for private passenger cars, motorcycles, trucks, recreational vehicles, and  
78 trailers used for personal transportation. Such plates shall contain such words or symbols,  
79 in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by law, so as to identify distinctively the  
80 owners as who are veterans or women veterans, ~~of the armed forces of the United States~~,  
81 who are recipients of a military medal award, or ~~persons~~ who served during active military  
82 combat and shall additionally identify distinctly the owner as a veteran or woman veteran  
83 of one of the following branches of the armed forces of the United States: Army, Navy,  
84 Marines, Air Force, or Coast Guard.

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

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

98

**SECTION 2.**

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