

The House Committee on Motor Vehicles offers the following substitute to HB 798:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 40-2-86.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 special license plates promoting certain beneficial projects and supporting certain worthy  
3 agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations and special license plates for qualified motor  
4 vehicles or drivers, so as to amend provisions relating to a special license plate for the  
5 personal vehicles of firefighters; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
6 and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 40-2-86.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special license  
10 plates promoting certain beneficial projects and supporting certain worthy agencies, funds,  
11 or nonprofit corporations and special license plates for qualified motor vehicles or drivers,  
12 is amended by revising paragraph (9) of subsection (I) as follows:

13 "(9)(A) A special license plate for owners of a private passenger car or truck used for  
14 personal transportation, who are firefighters certified pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 4  
15 of Title 25 and who are members of fire departments certified pursuant to Article 2 of  
16 Chapter 3 of Title 25 and motor vehicle owners who are ~~certified~~ firefighters of legally  
17 organized volunteer fire departments which have been certified pursuant to Article 2  
18 of Chapter 3 of Title 25. Such license plate shall be inscribed with such letters,  
19 numbers, words, symbols, or a combination thereof as determined by the commissioner  
20 to identify the owner as a ~~certified~~ firefighter. The chiefs of the various fire  
21 departments shall furnish to the commissioner a list of the certified firefighters and  
22 volunteer firefighters of their fire departments who reside in Georgia which list shall  
23 be updated as necessary. The funds raised by the sale of this license plate shall be  
24 deposited in the general fund.

25 (B) Should a certified firefighter or volunteer firefighter who has been issued a special  
26 and distinctive license plate be separated from such firefighter's department for any

27 reason other than retirement from employment, the ~~chief of such fire department shall~~  
 28 ~~obtain the separated member's license plate at the time of the separation and shall~~  
 29 ~~forward same to the commissioner along with a certificate to the effect that such person~~  
 30 ~~has been separated, and thereupon the commissioner~~ separated firefighter shall, within  
 31 14 days of such separation, return such special and distinctive license plate to the local  
 32 tag office which issued such license plate. Upon receipt of such special and distinctive  
 33 license plate, a local tag agent shall reissue a regular license plate and the appropriate  
 34 revalidation decal for the applicable registration period, at no additional charge, to such  
 35 former ~~certified~~ firefighter to replace the special and distinctive license plate. Should  
 36 a ~~certified~~ firefighter return to service with the same or another fire department, the  
 37 chief of such fire department shall ~~likewise~~ secure the regular license plate of such  
 38 person and return same to the commissioner, along with a certificate to the effect that  
 39 such person has become a member of the fire department, and the effective date thereof,  
 40 whereupon the commissioner shall, upon application and upon the payment of a \$35.00  
 41 manufacturing fee and all other applicable registration and licensing fees at the time of  
 42 registration, reissue a special and distinctive license plate to such new member to  
 43 replace the returned regular license plate. ~~Upon such request for a change in plate for~~  
 44 ~~a certified firefighter who is separated from a fire department, the chief of the fire~~  
 45 ~~department shall furnish such member with a copy of the chief's letter to the~~  
 46 ~~commissioner requesting the appropriate change in plate, which copy of such letter may~~  
 47 ~~be used by such member pending the issuance of the new plate.~~

48 (C) Motor vehicle owners who were firefighters certified pursuant to Article 1 of  
 49 Chapter 4 of Title 25 or were members of fire departments certified pursuant to  
 50 Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 25 and who retired from employment as such shall  
 51 continue to be eligible for the firefighter license plates issued under this paragraph the  
 52 same as if they continued to be certified and employed as firefighters. Whenever such  
 53 a certified firefighter who has been issued a special and distinctive license plate is  
 54 retired from employment with such firefighter's department, the chief of such fire  
 55 department shall forward to the commissioner a certificate to the effect that such person  
 56 has been retired.

57 (D) The spouse of a deceased firefighter shall continue to be eligible to be issued a  
 58 distinctive special firefighter's license plate as provided in this paragraph so long as  
 59 such person does not remarry."

## 60 SECTION 2.

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