

Senate Bill 225

By: Senators Harbison of the 15th, Rhett of the 33rd, Payne of the 54th, Dugan of the 30th,
Anderson of the 43rd 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 plates for certain persons and vehicles, so as to
3 provide for a veteran's license plate to individuals who served in the armed forces for an ally
4 of the United States during active military combat; to provide for related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other 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 plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by
10 revising Code Section 40-2-85.1, relating to special and distinctive license plates for certain
11 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;
33 (R) Soldier's Medal; and
34 (S) Meritorious Service Medal.
- 35 (2) 'Served during active military combat' means active duty service in World War I,
36 World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, the Global
37 War on Terrorism as defined by Presidential Executive Order 13289, Section 2, the war
38 in Afghanistan, or the war in Iraq, which includes either Operation Iraqi Freedom or
39 Operation Enduring Freedom.
- 40 (3) 'Veteran' means a:
41 (A) A former member of the armed forces of the United States who is discharged from
42 the armed forces under conditions other than dishonorable; or

43 (B) An individual who served in the armed forces of an ally of the United States during
44 active military combat and who is discharged or separated under conditions other than
45 dishonorable.

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

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

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

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

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

71 (c) The commissioner shall design a veteran's license plate, a woman veteran's license
72 plate, a military medal award recipient license plate, and a license plate to commemorate
73 service with the United States armed forces during active military combat. The design of
74 a veteran's license plate issued to a veteran defined in subparagraph (a)(3)(B) of this Code
75 section shall be distinctive in nature by inclusion of a depiction of the ally country's flag.

76 The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to
77 enforce compliance with all state license laws relating to the use and operation of private
78 passenger cars, motorcycles, trucks, and trailers before issuing such license plates in lieu
79 of the regular Georgia license plates. The manufacturing fee for such special and
80 distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00. The commissioner is specifically authorized to
81 promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure compliance in instances where
82 such vehicles have been transferred or sold. Except as provided in subsection (e) of this
83 Code section, such plates shall be nontransferable.

84 (d) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of
85 this chapter for private passenger cars, motorcycles, trucks, recreational vehicles, and
86 trailers used for personal transportation. Such plates shall contain such words or symbols,
87 in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by law, so as to identify distinctively the
88 owners who are veterans, who are recipients of a military medal award, or who served
89 during active military combat and shall additionally identify distinctly the owner as a
90 current or former member of one of the following branches of the armed forces of the
91 United States: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or Coast Guard.

92 (e) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between
93 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. The spouse of a deceased veteran or of a
94 deceased person who received a military medal award or who served during active military
95 combat shall continue to be eligible to be issued a distinctive personalized license plate as

96 provided in this Code section for any vehicle owned by such person, ownership of which
97 is transferred to the surviving spouse or for any other vehicle owned by such surviving
98 spouse either at the time of the qualifying person's death or acquired thereafter, so long as
99 such surviving spouse does not remarry.

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

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

109

SECTION 2.

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