

Senate Bill 556

By: Senators Thompson of the 14th, Albers of the 56th, Dugan of the 30th, Gooch of the 51st, Robertson of the 29th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to issuance, expiration, and renewal of drivers' licenses, so as to provide for the
3 issuance of a driver's license to current and retired peace officers at no charge; 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 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 issuance, expiration, and renewal of drivers' licenses, is amended by revising Code
9 Section 40-5-36, relating to veterans' licenses, honorary licenses, and other distinctive
10 licenses, as follows:

11 "40-5-36.

12 (a) Except as specifically provided in this chapter, no part of this chapter shall be
13 interpreted as affecting the rights and privileges of a person holding a veteran's, honorary,
14 ~~or distinctive, or peace officer~~ license, and nothing in this chapter shall be construed so as
15 to authorize the department to impose any charge or fee of any type whatsoever for the
16 issuance or renewal of a veteran's, honorary, ~~or distinctive, or peace officer~~ license;

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17 provided, however, that the commissioner may issue regulations on types and classes of
18 vehicles which may be operated by the holder of such license.

19 (b) The commissioner shall establish by rules and regulations the proof required to be
20 produced by an applicant for a veteran's, honorary, ~~or distinctive,~~ or peace officer license.
21 The contents of such license shall be the same as for any other license. The forms upon
22 which such licenses are issued shall be such that the licenses are of a permanent nature,
23 provided that nothing in this subsection shall authorize the department to require any
24 person holding a veteran's or honorary license before January 1, 1976, to surrender such
25 license. Veterans', honorary, ~~and distinctive,~~ and peace officer licenses shall not be subject
26 to any fees.

27 (c) Veterans' licenses may be issued to:

28 (1) Veterans who are residents of Georgia at the time of application for the license who
29 served in the active military, naval, or air service and who were discharged or released
30 therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable;

31 (2) All members or former members of the National Guard or reserve forces who served
32 on active duty or who have 20 or more years' creditable service therein; and

33 (3) Veterans who are United States citizens and residents of this state at the time of
34 application for the license and who served on active duty in the armed forces of an ally
35 of the United States during wartime or any conflict when personnel were committed by
36 the President of the United States, whether or not such veteran was assigned to a unit or
37 division which directly participated in such war or conflict and who were discharged or
38 separated under honorable conditions.

39 (d) Honorary licenses may be issued to:

40 (1) A resident of Georgia who is the surviving spouse of a veteran as defined by
41 paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of this Code section. Any license to such spouse shall be
42 valid only as long as that person remains unmarried; or

43 (2) A resident of Georgia who is the spouse of a veteran who would be qualified to
44 receive a veteran's license but who is disabled to the extent that he or she cannot operate
45 a motor vehicle.

46 (e) A distinctive license may be issued to any member of the Georgia National Guard in
47 good standing who has completed at least one year of satisfactory service. The department
48 shall have the authority to cancel the distinctive license of any person upon receipt of
49 written notice from the adjutant general who shall notify the department that the person is
50 no longer a member of the Georgia National Guard in good standing.

51 (f) A peace officer license may be issued to any currently employed or retired peace
52 officer, as such term is defined in Code Section 47-17-1."

53 **SECTION 2.**

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