

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

**AS PASSED SENATE**

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 **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; and

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.