

House Bill 819 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Hitchens of the 161st, Park of the 101st, Williams of the 168th, Glanton of the 75th, Nguyen of the 89th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and
2 traffic, so as to repeal a provision relating to storage of an unlicensed vehicle; to authorize
3 the issuance of veterans' licenses to any person who is a United States citizen and resident
4 of this state who served in the military for an ally of the United States during a time of war
5 or other conflict; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic, is
10 amended in Code Section 40-2-8, relating to storage of unlicensed vehicle, by revising
11 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) as follows:

12 ~~"(1) Any vehicle operated in the State of Georgia which is required to be registered and~~
13 ~~which does not have attached to the rear thereof a numbered license plate and current~~
14 ~~revalidation decal affixed to a corner or corners of the license plate as designated by the~~
15 ~~commissioner, if required, shall be stored at the owner's risk and expense by any law~~
16 ~~enforcement officer of the State of Georgia, unless such operation is otherwise permitted~~
17 ~~by this chapter Reserved."~~

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-5-36, relating to veterans' licenses, honorary
20 licenses, and other distinctive licenses, as follows:

21 "40-5-36.

22 (a) Except as specifically provided in this chapter, no part of this chapter shall be
23 interpreted as affecting the rights and privileges of a person holding a veteran's, honorary,
24 or distinctive license, and nothing in this chapter shall be construed so as to authorize the
25 department to impose any charge or fee of any type whatsoever for the issuance or renewal

26 of a veteran's, honorary, or distinctive license; provided, however, that the commissioner
 27 may issue regulations on types and classes of vehicles which may be operated by the holder
 28 of such license.

29 (b) The commissioner shall establish by rules and regulations the proof required to be
 30 produced by an applicant for a veteran's, honorary, or distinctive license. The contents of
 31 such license shall be the same as for any other license. The forms upon which such
 32 licenses are issued shall be such that the licenses are of a permanent nature, provided that
 33 nothing in this subsection shall authorize the department to require any person holding a
 34 veteran's or honorary license before January 1, 1976, to surrender such license. Veterans',
 35 honorary, and distinctive licenses shall not be subject to any fees.

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

37 (1) Veterans who ~~were~~ are residents of Georgia ~~at the time of enlistment or~~
 38 ~~commissioning and are residents~~ at the time of application for the license, ~~or who have~~
 39 ~~been residents of Georgia for at least two years immediately preceding the date of~~
 40 ~~application for the license,~~ and who served on active duty in the armed forces of the
 41 United States or on active duty in a reserve component of the armed forces of the United
 42 States, including the National Guard, during wartime or any conflict when personnel were
 43 committed by the President of the United States, whether or not such veteran was
 44 assigned to a unit or division which directly participated in such war or conflict, except
 45 for periodic transfer from reserve status to active duty status for training purposes, and
 46 who were discharged or separated under honorable conditions; ~~and~~

47 (2) All members or former members of the National Guard or reserve forces who have
 48 20 or more years' creditable service therein; and

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

55 (d) Honorary licenses may be issued to:

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

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

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

67 **SECTION 3.**

68 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
69 without such approval.

70 **SECTION 4.**

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