

Senate Bill 336

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Dugan of the 30th, Thompson of the 14th, Miller of the 49th, Kennedy of the 18th and others

AS PASSED

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 expand eligibility for certain members of the military to receive special license plates; to add
4 a military honor to the military service award eligible for special and distinctive license
5 plates for veterans; to provide for a special and distinctive license plate for United States
6 Army Rangers; to provide for the issuance of certain special license plates for motorcycles;
7 to establish a specialty license plate for members of the Georgia Tennis Foundation; to
8 establish a specialty license plate honoring the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, Inc.,
9 and the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network, Inc.; to provide for related matters; to
10 provide for an effective date; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to
11 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

12 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

13 **SECTION 1.**

14 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
15 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by
16 revising Code Section 40-2-85.1, relating to special and distinctive license plates for certain
17 veterans, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) as follows:

18 "(1) 'Military medal award' means the following medals, decorations, or other recognition
19 of honor for military service awarded by a branch of the United States military:

- 20 (A) Medal of Honor;
- 21 (B) Bronze Star Medal;
- 22 (C) Silver Star Medal;
- 23 (D) Distinguished Service Cross;
- 24 (E) Navy Cross;
- 25 (F) Air Force Cross;
- 26 (G) Defense Distinguished Service Medal;

- 27 (H) Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal;
 28 (I) Distinguished Service Medal;
 29 (J) Navy Distinguished Service Medal;
 30 (K) Air Force Distinguished Service Medal;
 31 (L) Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal;
 32 (M) Defense Superior Service Medal;
 33 (N) Legion of Merit;
 34 (O) Distinguished Flying Cross;
 35 (P) Purple Heart;
 36 (Q) Air Medal; ~~and~~
 37 (R) Soldier's Medal; and
 38 (S) Meritorious Service Medal."

39 **SECTION 2.**

40 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

41 "40-2-85.4.

42 (a) Motor vehicle and trailer owners who are designated to United States Army Ranger
 43 units, past or present, or are graduates of the United States Army Ranger School shall be
 44 eligible to receive special and distinctive vehicle license plates for private passenger cars,
 45 trucks, motorcycles, or recreational vehicles used for personal transportation. Such license
 46 plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to
 47 registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this chapter.

48 (b) A person who qualifies for the special and distinctive license plate pursuant to
 49 subsection (a) of this Code section shall make application therefor with the commissioner
 50 and include the requisite fee. The commissioner shall design a distinctive license plate as
 51 provided in subsection (c) of this Code section and issue the distinctive license plates to
 52 qualifying applicants. There shall be no minimum required number of applicants for such
 53 distinctive license plate. The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and regulations
 54 as may be necessary to enforce compliance with all state license laws relating to the use
 55 and operation of private passenger cars and trucks before issuing these license plates in lieu
 56 of the regular Georgia license plates. The additional manufacturing fee for such special
 57 and distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00. The commissioner is specifically authorized
 58 to promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure compliance in instances where
 59 such vehicles have been transferred or sold.

60 (c) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of
 61 this chapter for private passenger cars or trucks used for personal transportation, except that

62 the commissioner shall include a special design to identify the owner as a United States
 63 Army Ranger.
 64 (d) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between
 65 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80."

66 SECTION 3.

67 Said article is further amended in Code Section 40-2-86 of the Official Code of Georgia
 68 Annotated, relating to special license plates promoting and supporting certain worthy
 69 agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations with proceeds disbursed to the general fund and
 70 the agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation, is amended by revising subsection (b) and adding
 71 two new paragraphs to subsection (l) to read as follows:

72 "(b) The agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation sponsoring the special license plate, in
 73 cooperation with the commissioner, shall design special distinctive license plates
 74 appropriate to promote the program benefited by the sale of the special license plate. The
 75 special license plates ~~must~~ shall include a design to be of the same size as general issue
 76 motor vehicle license plates and a design to be of the same size as motorcycle license
 77 plates. Such special license plates shall also include a unique design and identifying
 78 number, whereby the total number of characters does not exceed an amount to be
 79 determined by the commissioner. If so specified in the design description contained in this
 80 Code section for any special license plate, such license plate need not contain a place for
 81 the county name decal as required by Code Section 40-2-9. No two recipients shall receive
 82 identically numbered plates. The agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation sponsoring the
 83 license plate may request the assignment of the first of 100 in a series of license plates upon
 84 payment of an additional initial registration fee of \$25.00 for each license plate requested."

85 "(64) A special license plate honoring the Georgia Tennis Foundation, with the words
 86 'Play Tennis!' to be displayed across the bottom. The funds raised by the sale of this
 87 special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Tennis Foundation.

88 (65) A special license plate honoring the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, Inc., and
 89 the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network, Inc. The funds raised by the sale of this
 90 special license plate shall be disbursed equally to the Georgia Council on Substance
 91 Abuse, Inc., and the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network, Inc. Such license plate
 92 shall not include a space for a county name decal but shall instead bear the legend
 93 'Georgia Recovers' in lieu of the name of the county of issuance."

94 SECTION 4.

95 Said article is further amended in Code Section 40-2-86.1, relating to special license plates
 96 promoting or supporting certain worthy agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations and

97 qualified motor vehicles or drivers with proceeds deposited into the general fund, by revising
98 subsection (b) as follows:

99 "(b) The commissioner, in cooperation with the agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation
100 sponsoring the special license plate, shall design special distinctive license plates intended
101 to promote the program benefited by the sale of the special license plate. The special
102 license plates ~~must~~ shall include a design to be of the same size as general issue motor
103 vehicle license plates and a design to be of the same size as motorcycle license plates.
104 Such special license plates shall also include a unique design and identifying number,
105 whereby the total number of characters does not exceed an amount to be determined by the
106 commissioner. If so specified in the design description contained in this Code section for
107 any special license plate, such license plate need not contain a place for the county name
108 decal as required by Code Section 40-2-9. No two recipients shall receive identically
109 numbered plates. The agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation sponsoring the license plate
110 may request the assignment of the first of 100 in a series of license plates upon payment
111 of an additional initial registration fee of \$25.00 for each license plate requested."

112 **SECTION 5.**

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

115 **SECTION 6.**

116 In accordance with the requirements of Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(n) of the
117 Constitution of the State of Georgia, this Act shall not become law unless it receives the
118 requisite two-thirds' majority vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

119 **SECTION 7.**

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