House Bill 453 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)
By: Representatives McDonald of the 26th, Ridley of the 6th, Corbett of the 174th, Momtahan of the 17th, Powell of the 32nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Code Section 40-2-86.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special license plates promoting or supporting certain worthy agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations and qualified motor vehicles or drivers with proceeds deposited into the general fund, so as to provide for standards for proof of eligibility for special license plates for certified, volunteer, and retired firefighters; to provide for the issuance of such special license plates; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 40-2-86.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special license plates promoting or supporting certain worthy agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations and qualified motor vehicles or drivers with proceeds deposited into the general fund, is amended by revising paragraph (9) of subsection (l) as follows:

"(9)(A) A special license plate for owners of a private passenger car or truck used for personal transportation purposes unrelated to their role as a firefighter, who are firefighters certified pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 25 and who are members of fire departments certified pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 25 and motor
vehicle owners who are firefighters of legally organized volunteer fire departments
which have been certified pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 25. Such license
plate shall be inscribed with such letters, numbers, words, symbols, or a combination
thereof as determined by the commissioner to identify the owner as a firefighter. The
chiefs of the various fire departments shall furnish to the commissioner a list of the
certified firefighters and volunteer firefighters of their fire departments who reside in
Georgia, which list shall be updated as necessary. Such list shall be made available to
county tag agents and shall be the means by which eligibility of an applicant shall be
determined; provided, however, that an applicant not appearing on the list may prove
qualification by presenting proof of retirement or current certification from his or her
chief. The funds raised by the sale of this license plate shall be deposited in the general
fund.

(B) Should a certified firefighter or volunteer firefighter who has been issued a special
and distinctive license plate be separated from such firefighter's department for any
reason other than retirement from employment, the separated firefighter shall,
within 14 days of such separation, return such special and distinctive license plate to
the local tag office which issued such license plate issuing county tag agent. Upon
receipt of such special and distinctive license plate, a local county tag agent shall
reissue a regular license plate and the appropriate revalidation decal for the applicable
registration period, at no additional charge, to such former firefighter to replace the
special and distinctive license plate. Should a firefighter return to service with the same
or another fire department, the chief of such the fire department employing such
firefighter shall secure the regular license plate of such person and return same to the
commissioner, along with a certificate to the effect that such person has become a
member of the fire department, and the effective date thereof, whereupon the
commissioner shall, upon application and upon the payment of a $35.00 manufacturing
fee and all other applicable registration and licensing fees at the time of registration,
reissue a special and distinctive license plate to such new member to replace the
returned regular license plate.

(C) Motor vehicle owners who were firefighters certified pursuant to Article 1 of
Chapter 4 of Title 25 or were members of fire departments certified pursuant to
Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 25 and who retired from employment as such shall
continue to be eligible for the firefighter license plates issued under this paragraph the
same as if they continued to be certified and employed as firefighters. Whenever such
a certified firefighter who has been issued a special and distinctive license plate is
retired from employment with such firefighter's department, the chief of such fire
department shall forward to the commissioner a certificate to the effect that such person
has been retired. The name of such retired firefighter shall be added to the list
described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and made available to county tag
agents.

(D) The spouse of a deceased firefighter shall continue to be eligible to be issued a
distinctive special firefighter's license plate as provided in this paragraph so long as
such person does not remarry."

SECTION 2.

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