

House Bill 299 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Thomas of the 21st, Bonner of the 73rd, Clark of the 100th, Ballard of the 147th, Tarvin of the 2nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 15-9-2.1, Title 16, Title 19, Title 20, and Chapter 2 of Title 38,
2 Chapter 2 of Title 40, of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to appointment,
3 compensation, authority, qualifications, training, and other limitations of associate probate
4 court judges, crimes and offenses, domestic relations, education, military affairs, and
5 registration and licensing of motor vehicles, respectively, so as to add appropriate references
6 to the United States Space Force; to make conforming changes; to provide for related
7 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 15-9-2.1, relating to appointment, compensation, authority, qualifications,
11 training, and other limitations of associate probate court judges, is amended by revising
12 paragraph (1) of subsection (e) as follows:

13 "(1) It shall be unlawful for any associate judge of the probate court to engage directly
14 or indirectly in the practice of law in his or her own name or in the name of another as a
15 partner in any manner in any case, proceeding, or matter of any kind in his or her own
16 court or in any other court in any case, proceeding, or any other matters of which his or

17 her own court has pending jurisdiction or has jurisdiction. It shall be unlawful for any
18 associate judge of the probate court to give advice or counsel to any individual on any
19 matter of any kind whatsoever that has arisen directly or indirectly in his or her own
20 court. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit in any way the ability of an
21 associate judge of the probate court to serve as or offer advice in his or her role as a judge
22 advocate or in any other military role in an active duty or reserve component of the
23 United States Army, United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States
24 Coast Guard, United States Air Force, United States Space Force, United States National
25 Guard, Georgia National Guard, Georgia Air National Guard, Georgia Naval Militia, the
26 Georgia State Defense Force, or in the National Guard or Air National Guard of any state
27 or territory of the United States."

28 **SECTION 2.**

29 Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to crimes and offenses, is
30 amended in Code Section 16-9-63, relating to false representation as veteran, by revising
31 paragraph (1) of subsection (a) as follows:

32 "(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

33 (1) 'Armed forces of the United States' means the army, navy, air force, space force,
34 marine corps, or coast guard and the reserve components thereof and the uniformed
35 components of the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
36 Administration."

37 **SECTION 3.**

38 Said title is further amended in Code Section 16-11-124, relating to exemptions from
39 application of part, by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) as follows:

62 **SECTION 6.**

63 Said title is further amended in Code Section 19-8-26, relating to forms, by revising
64 subparagraph (h)(2)(A) as follows:

65 "(A) The branch of his service is (Army) (Navy) (Marine) (Air Force) (Space Force)
66 (Coast Guard) [circle one]."

67 **SECTION 7.**

68 Said title is further amended in Code Section 19-8-26, relating to forms, by revising
69 subparagraph (n)(7)(A) as follows:

70 "(A) The branch of my service is (Army)(Navy)(Marine)(Airforce)(Space Force)(Coast
71 Guard)[circle one]."

72 **SECTION 8.**

73 Said title is further amended in Code Section 19-9-6, relating to definitions relative to child
74 custody proceedings, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) as follows:

75 "(1) 'Armed forces' means the national guard and the reserve components of the armed
76 forces, the United States army, navy, marine corps, space force, coast guard, and air
77 force."

78 **SECTION 9.**

79 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in
80 Code Section 20-4-130, relating to definitions relative to the Defense Community Economic
81 Development Grant Program, by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (a) as follows:

82 "(4) 'Military installation' means a facility owned and operated by United States Army,
83 Air Force, Navy, Marines, Space Force, or Coast Guard that shelters military equipment
84 and personnel and facilitates training and operations for such organizations."

85 **SECTION 10.**

86 Chapter 2 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to military affairs,
87 is amended in Code Section 38-2-2, relating to definitions relative to the Defense Community
88 Economic Development Grant Program, by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (a) as
89 follows:

90 "(1) 'Active military service of the United States' and 'in the armed forces of the United
91 States' mean full-time duty in the army, navy, marine corps, air force, space force, or
92 coast guard of the United States."

93 **SECTION 11.**

94 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 38-2-217, relating to resignations, acts
95 constituting resignation, types of discharge after resignation, and resignation of officers who
96 are accountable for military funds or property, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

97 "(b) Enlistment in the regular army, air force, navy, marine corps, space force, or coast
98 guard of the United States shall be deemed a resignation by the person so enlisting of all
99 commissions in the militia held by him or her."

100 **SECTION 12.**

101 Chapter 2 of Title 40, relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, is amended in
102 Code Section 40-2-65, relating to special license plates for members of active reserve
103 components of the United States, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) as follows:

104 "(1) Motor vehicle owners who are assigned or attached members of troop program units
105 of any branch of the active reserve components of the United States inside or outside the
106 State of Georgia shall be eligible to receive free motor vehicle license plates for private
107 passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation. Motor vehicle
108 owners who are members of any National Guard unit in a state adjoining the State of
109 Georgia and for whom there is no National Guard unit in the county of their residence

110 shall be eligible to receive free motor vehicle plates for private passenger cars,
111 motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation to identify such vehicle owner as
112 a reservist. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle
113 laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of
114 this chapter. No person shall be entitled to more than one free motor vehicle license plate
115 for any calendar year; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee
116 provided for in Code Section 40-2-151 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a reservist
117 shall be entitled to receive one additional such license plate. For each additional license
118 plate for which an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual
119 registration fee of \$25.00, which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time
120 of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in
121 Code Section 40-2-34. Additional words or symbols in addition to numbers and letters
122 prescribed by law shall be inscribed upon such license plates so as to identify
123 distinctively the owner as a member of one of the following branches of the United States
124 military reserve: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard. The
125 commanding officer of each active reserve component program unit or the adjutant
126 general of the National Guard unit of each neighboring state shall, upon request of any
127 reserve member or National Guard member of that unit, respectively, furnish to that
128 member approved documentation supporting the member's current membership in the
129 respective reserve or National Guard unit. This documentation shall be presented
130 annually to the tax commissioner of the county in which the reserve member or National
131 Guard member applies for the special license plate under this Code section and upon
132 subsequent reregistration for each succeeding year."

133 **SECTION 13.**

134 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-85.1, relating to special license plates
135 for certain veterans, by revising subsection (d) as follows:

136 "(d) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of
137 this chapter for private passenger cars, motorcycles, trucks, recreational vehicles, and
138 trailers used for personal transportation. Such plates shall contain words or symbols, in
139 addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by law, so as to identify distinctively the
140 owners who are veterans, who are recipients of a military medal award, or who served
141 during active military combat and shall additionally identify distinctively the owner as a
142 current or former member of one of the following branches of the armed forces of the
143 United States: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard."

144 **SECTION 14.**

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