Senate Bill 227  
By: Senators Martin of the 9th, Henson of the 41st and Dugan of the 30th

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT  

To amend Code Section 32-9-4 and Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to designation of travel lanes by the Department of Transportation and use of such lanes and to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, respectively, so as to provide for a distinctive logo or emblem for manufacturer's, distributor's, or manufacturer headquarters' license plates to be placed upon alternative fueled vehicles to allow travel in exclusive or preferential use lanes of the state highway system; to establish a specialty license plate to benefit the Georgia Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc.; to establish a specialty license plate to benefit the Autism Alliance of Georgia; to provide for related matters; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 32-9-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to designation of travel lanes by the Department of Transportation and use of such lanes, is amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

“(a) The department is authorized to designate travel lanes in each direction of travel on any road in the state highway system for the exclusive or preferential use of:

(1) Buses;

(2) Motorcycles;

(3) Passenger vehicles occupied by two persons or more;

(4) Vehicles bearing alternative fueled vehicle license plates issued under paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Code Section 40-2-38 or paragraph (7) of subsection (l) of Code Section 40-2-86.1; or

(5) Other vehicles as designated by the department.
Where such designation has been made, the road shall be appropriately marked with such signs or other roadway markers and markings to inform the traveling public of the lane restrictions imposed."

SECTION 2.

Chapter 2 of Title 40, relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, is amended in Code Section 40-2-38, relating to registration of vehicles by manufacturers, distributors, and dealers, dealer plates, and manufacturer headquarters plates, by adding a new paragraph to subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(5) The commissioner shall include a distinctive logo or emblem for any manufacturer's, distributor's, or manufacturer headquarters' license plate to be attached to an alternative fueled vehicle, as such term is defined in paragraph (7) of subsection (l) of Code Section 40-2-86.1. Alternative fuel vehicles bearing a special license plate pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the alternative fuel vehicle fees as set forth in paragraph (19) of subsection (a) of Code Section 40-2-151 at the time of initial issuance and annually thereafter in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. Display of a special license plate issued pursuant to this paragraph shall authorize travel by such alternative fueled vehicle in lanes for exclusive or preferential use designated pursuant to Code Section 32-9-4."

SECTION 3.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-86, relating to special license plates promoting and supporting certain worthy agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations with proceeds disbursed to the general fund and the agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation, by adding a new paragraph to subsection (l) to read as follows:

"(58) A special license plate supporting the Georgia Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed as provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection to the Georgia Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc. (59) A special license plate promoting autism awareness. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Autism Alliance of Georgia. Such special license plate shall include the phrase 'Autism Awareness' in lieu of the name of the county of issuance."

SECTION 4.

In accordance with the requirements of Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(n) of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, this Act shall not become law unless it receives the requisite two-thirds' majority vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.
SECTION 5.
This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SECTION 6.
All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.