

The House Committee on Motor Vehicles offers the following substitute to SB 35:

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 provide for the design of special license plates issued to retired members of the active reserve
4 components and the Georgia National Guard; to provide for a special license plate for
5 amateur radio station license holders; to provide for qualifications; to provide for design of
6 such plate; to provide for conforming changes; to amend Code Section 48-5-478 of the
7 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to constitutional exemption from motor vehicle
8 ad valorem taxation for disabled veterans, so as to remove a requirement that a motor vehicle
9 display a certain license plate in order to qualify for an exemption from ad valorem taxation;
10 to limit applicability of such exemption to a single vehicle; to provide for clarification that
11 such exemption applies to alternative title ad valorem taxes; to authorize the adoption of rules
12 and regulations; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal
13 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

15
16 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
17 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended in Code
18 Section 40-2-65, relating to special license plates for members of active reserve components
19 of the United States, by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) as follows:

20 "(2) Motor vehicle owners who are retired from any branch of the active reserve
21 components whose active reservists are eligible to obtain free motor vehicle license plates
22 under paragraph (1) of this subsection, upon application for license plates and upon
23 compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of
24 motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of this chapter, shall be issued, free of
25 charge, a license plate as prescribed in that article for private passenger cars, motorcycles,
26 or trucks used for personal transportation. Each such retired member shall be entitled to
27 no more than one such free plate for any calendar year; provided, however, that, upon
28 payment of the regular license fee provided for in Code Section 40-2-151 and a
29 manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a retired member shall be entitled to receive one additional
30 such license plate. For each additional license plate for which an initial \$25.00 fee was
31 required, there shall be an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00, which fee shall be
32 collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and
33 shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The license plates
34 issued pursuant to this paragraph shall, in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed
35 by law, be identical to those issued pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection to
36 members of the branch of the active reserve component from which that person retired;
37 provided, however, that 'Retired' shall be included in lieu of the name of the county of
38 issuance. The commanding officer of each active reserve component program unit shall,
39 upon request of any retired reserve member from that unit, furnish to that retired member
40 approved documentation supporting the retired member's current retired membership
41 status from that reserve unit. This documentation shall be presented to the tax

42 commissioner of the county in which the retired reserve member applies for the special
43 license plate under this Code section."

44 **SECTION 2.**

45 Said article is further amended in Code Section 40-2-66, relating to special license plates for
46 members of Georgia National Guard, by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) as follows:

47 "(2) Motor vehicle owners who are retired members of the Georgia National Guard, upon
48 application for license plates and upon compliance with the state motor vehicle laws
49 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of
50 this chapter, shall be issued, free of charge, a license plate as prescribed in that article for
51 private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation. Each
52 retired member of the Georgia National Guard shall be entitled to no more than one such
53 free plate at a time; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee
54 provided for in Code Section 48-10-2 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member shall
55 be entitled to one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate for
56 which an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual registration
57 fee of \$25.00 which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection
58 of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section
59 40-2-34. The license plates issued pursuant to this paragraph shall, in addition to the
60 numbers and letters prescribed by law, be identical to those issued pursuant to paragraph
61 (1) of this subsection; provided, however, that 'Retired' shall be included in lieu of the
62 name of the county of issuance. The adjutant general of Georgia shall, upon request of
63 any member retired from that National Guard unit, furnish to that retired member
64 approved documentation supporting the member's retired membership status in that
65 National Guard unit. This documentation shall be presented annually to the tax
66 commissioner of the county in which the retired National Guard member applies for the

67 special license plate under this Code section and upon subsequent reregistration for each
68 succeeding year."

69 **SECTION 3.**

70 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-75, designated as reserved, as
71 follows:

72 "40-2-75.

73 (a) Motor vehicle owners who are residents of this state and who hold an unrevoked and
74 unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications
75 Commission, when accompanied by proof of such license and upon full compliance with
76 state motor vehicle laws in relation to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, shall be
77 issued upon application a special design license plate for a passenger car. Upon such
78 license plate, which shall be free of charge, shall be inscribed the official amateur radio call
79 letters of such applicant as assigned by the Federal Communications Commission. Each
80 licensed amateur radio operator shall be entitled to no more than one such free license plate
81 at a time. Such plates shall be transferred to another vehicle as provided in Code
82 Section 40-2-80.

83 (b) The commissioner shall design the license plate authorized by this Code section and
84 may consult with the Georgia Section of the Amateur Radio Relay League and their
85 licensed amateur radio operators residing in this state for such purposes. The
86 commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes
87 of this Code section.

88 (c) No person who receives compensation in any form for his or her services in making
89 amateur radio communication available to the public or to individuals, firms, corporations,
90 or organizations pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Part 97 shall be eligible for a license plate issued
91 pursuant to this Code section. Reserved."

92 **SECTION 4.**

93 Said article is further amended in Code Section 40-2-86.1, relating to special license plates
 94 promoting or supporting certain worthy agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations and
 95 qualified motor vehicles or drivers with proceeds deposited into the general fund, by revising
 96 paragraph (6) of subsection (l) as follows:

97 ~~"(6) Reserved. A special license plate identifying residents of the State of Georgia who~~
 98 ~~hold an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the~~
 99 ~~Federal Communications Commission. The special license plate shall be inscribed with~~
 100 ~~the official amateur radio call letters of such applicant as assigned by the Federal~~
 101 ~~Communications Commission. The funds raised by the sale of this license plate shall be~~
 102 ~~deposited in the general fund."~~

103 **SECTION 5.**

104 Code Section 48-5-478 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to constitutional
 105 exemption from motor vehicle ad valorem taxation for disabled veterans, is amended by
 106 revising subsection (a) as follows:

107 "(a) A motor vehicle owned by or leased to a disabled veteran who is a citizen and resident
 108 of this state ~~and on which such disabled veteran actually places the free disabled veteran~~
 109 ~~motor vehicle license plate he or she receives pursuant to Code Section 40-2-69~~ is hereby
 110 exempted from all ad valorem taxes for state, county, municipal, and school purposes,
 111 including any alternative title ad valorem tax assessed pursuant to Code Section 48-5C-1.
 112 Such exemption shall be applicable to a single motor vehicle owned by or leased to a
 113 disabled veteran. As used in this Code section, the term 'disabled veteran' shall have the
 114 same meaning as that term is defined in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code
 115 Section 48-5-48. The department may issue such rules and regulations as are necessary to
 116 implement this subsection."

117 **SECTION 6.**

118 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2024.

119 **SECTION 7.**

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