

House Bill 287

By: Representatives Kirby of the 114th, Hitchens of the 161st, Lumsden of the 12th, Willard of the 51st, Smyre of the 135th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, so as to provide for the issuance of special license plates honoring family members of service members killed in action at no cost to eligible family members; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, is amended in Code Section 40-2-85.3, relating to special license plates honoring family members of service members killed in action, by revising subsections (d) and (f) as follows:

"(d) Any motor vehicle owner who is a resident of Georgia, other than one registering under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with state laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles shall be issued such a special license plate upon application therefor. Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed annually with a revalidation decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31. Upon payment of all ad valorem taxes and other fees due at registration of a motor vehicle, an eligible family member may apply for a Gold Star license plate. In order to qualify as an eligible family member for purposes of this Code section, the person must be related to the fallen service member as a spouse, mother, father, sibling, child, ~~step-parent~~ stepparent, or surviving spouse of such service member's sibling. ~~One~~ Up to two free license ~~plate~~ plates shall be allowed for ~~the spouse, mother, and father,~~ any eligible family member and they may purchase additional license plates for each motor vehicle they register in this state. ~~Siblings, children, step-parents, or surviving spouses of siblings of service members may purchase Gold Star license plates for motor vehicles registered in this state. The cost of a Gold Star license plate shall be established by the department, but shall not exceed the cost~~

27 ~~of other specialty license plates.~~ If a Gold Star license plate is lost, damaged, or stolen, the
28 eligible family member must pay the reasonable cost, to be established by the department,
29 but not to exceed the cost of other specialty license plates, to replace the Gold Star license
30 plate."

31 "(f) ~~A free~~ Free Gold Star license ~~plate~~ plates shall be issued only to ~~the spouse, mother,~~
32 ~~and father of service~~ eligible family members who resided in Georgia at the time of the
33 death of the service member. However, an eligible family member, ~~except for nonresident~~
34 ~~siblings or surviving spouses of such nonresident siblings,~~ who was not a resident of
35 Georgia at the time of the death of the service member may purchase a Gold Star license
36 plate, at a cost to be established by the department, not to exceed the cost of other specialty
37 license plates."

38 **SECTION 2.**

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