

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

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

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 40-2-86.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special license
10 plates promoting or supporting certain worthy agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations and
11 qualified motor vehicles or drivers with proceeds deposited into the general fund, is amended
12 by revising paragraph (9) of subsection (1) as follows:

13 "(9)(A) A special license plate for owners of a private passenger car or truck used for
14 ~~personal~~ transportation purposes unrelated to their role as a firefighter, who are
15 firefighters certified pursuant to ~~Article 1~~ of Chapter 4 of Title 25 and who are members
16 of fire departments certified pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 25 and motor

17 vehicle owners who are firefighters of legally organized volunteer fire departments
18 which have been certified pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 25. Such license
19 plate shall be inscribed with such letters, numbers, words, symbols, or a combination
20 thereof as determined by the commissioner to identify the owner as a firefighter. The
21 chiefs of the various fire departments shall furnish to the commissioner a list of the
22 certified firefighters and volunteer firefighters of their fire departments who reside in
23 Georgia, which list shall be updated as necessary. Such list shall be made available to
24 county tag agents and shall be the means by which eligibility of an applicant shall be
25 determined; provided, however, that an applicant not appearing on the list may prove
26 qualification by presenting proof of retirement or current certification from his or her
27 chief. The funds raised by the sale of this license plate shall be deposited in the general
28 fund.

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

44 reissue a special and distinctive license plate to such new member to replace the
45 returned regular license plate.

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

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

60 **SECTION 2.**

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