



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Substitute Bill No. 6001



**AN ACT CONCERNING AN INDICATION ON MOTOR VEHICLE
OPERATOR'S LICENSES AND IDENTITY CARDS FOR GOLD STAR
FAMILY MEMBERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-36h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

3 (a) Each motor vehicle operator's license issued by the
4 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in accordance with section 14-36 and
5 each identity card issued by said commissioner in accordance with
6 section 1-1h shall contain the following: (1) The person's full legal
7 name; (2) the person's date of birth; (3) the person's gender; (4) the
8 person's height and eye color; (5) the person's assigned operator's
9 license or identity card number; (6) the person's address of principal
10 residence in this state; (7) the person's signature; (8) the person's
11 photograph or digital image; [and] (9) if applicable, the person's status
12 as a veteran, as provided in subsections (e) and (f) of this section; and
13 (10) if applicable, the person's status as an immediate family member
14 of a resident of this state who was killed in action while performing
15 active military duty with the armed forces, as provided in subsection
16 (g) of this section.

17 (b) If any person does not reside in any state, territory or possession
18 of the United States because such person is on active military duty
19 with the United States Armed Forces, and such person's home state of

20 record is Connecticut, as reflected in the records of the United States
21 Department of Defense, United States Department of Homeland
22 Security or any federal department under which the United States
23 Coast Guard operates, such person may obtain a Connecticut
24 operator's license or identity card, provided such person: (1) Does not
25 have an operator's license or identity card issued by another state,
26 territory or possession of the United States, or surrenders any such
27 license or identity card; (2) has a current APO or FPO mailing address;
28 (3) designates such person's home address as 60 State Street,
29 Wethersfield, CT 06161; and (4) meets all other requirements for
30 obtaining an operator's license or identity card in this state.

31 (c) The commissioner shall provide that each such license or identity
32 card document contains physical security features designed to prevent
33 tampering, counterfeiting or duplication of the document.

34 (d) Each such document shall also contain one or more machine-
35 readable technology feature or component, including, but not limited
36 to, a bar code or magnetic strip.

37 (e) Any person who is a veteran may submit a request to the
38 Department of Veterans Affairs to have [his or her] such person's
39 status as a veteran contained on [his or her] such person's motor
40 vehicle operator's license or identity card. Said department shall, not
41 later than thirty days after receipt of such request, verify whether such
42 person is a veteran and, if so, notify the Commissioner of Motor
43 Vehicles of such request and verification. The Commissioner of Motor
44 Vehicles shall indicate such person's status as a veteran on any motor
45 vehicle operator's license or identity card issued to such person upon
46 original issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle operator's license or
47 identity card or upon issuance of a duplicate motor vehicle operator's
48 license or identity card.

49 (f) (1) Any person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special
50 guerilla units, which units served in the United States secret war in the
51 Kingdom of Laos during the Vietnam War, may submit a request to

52 the Department of Veterans Affairs to be listed as a veteran, based on
53 such service, on [his or her] such person's motor vehicle operator's
54 license or identity card. Said department shall, not later than thirty
55 days after receipt of such request and the documents required under
56 subdivision (2) of this subsection, verify whether such person was such
57 a member and, if so, notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of
58 such request and verification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
59 shall indicate such person's status as a veteran on any motor vehicle
60 operator's license or identity card issued to such person upon original
61 issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle operator's license or identity
62 card or upon issuance of a duplicate motor vehicle operator's license or
63 identity card.

64 (2) Any such person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian
65 special guerilla units shall submit to the Department of Veterans
66 Affairs, in addition to the request under subdivision (1) of this
67 subsection, (A) an affidavit stating (i) when such person served, (ii)
68 where such person served, (iii) the unit in which such person served,
69 and (iv) the capacity in which such person served; (B) any available
70 corroborating witness affidavits; (C) any available official
71 documentation of service; and (D) any other documents supporting
72 such person's affidavit.

73 (g) Any person who is an immediate family member of a resident of
74 this state who was killed in action while performing active military
75 duty with the armed forces may submit a request to the Department of
76 Veterans Affairs to have such person's status as such immediate family
77 member contained on such person's motor vehicle operator's license or
78 identity card. Said department shall, not later than thirty days after
79 receipt of such request, verify whether such person is such an
80 immediate family member and, if so, notify the Commissioner of
81 Motor Vehicles of such request and verification. The Commissioner of
82 Motor Vehicles shall indicate such person's status as such an
83 immediate family member on any motor vehicle operator's license or
84 identity card issued to such person upon original issuance or renewal

85 of a motor vehicle operator's license or identity card or upon issuance
86 of a duplicate motor vehicle operator's license or identity card.

87 [(g)] (h) As used in this section: (1) "Full legal name" means the most
88 complete version of the name that appears on a person's certificate of
89 birth, official passport or other document or documents accepted by
90 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to verify the person's identity,
91 unless the person presents a marriage license or certificate, a certificate
92 of civil union, a divorce decree or an order of a court of competent
93 jurisdiction pertaining to a permanent change of the person's name;
94 [and] (2) "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103,
95 or any former member of the armed forces who is entitled to
96 retirement pay under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to
97 time, or, but for age, would be so entitled; (3) "armed forces" has the
98 same meaning as provided in section 27-103; and (4) "immediate
99 family member" means a spouse, mother, father, brother, sister, child,
100 grandmother or grandfather.

101 Sec. 2. Section 14-20c of the general statutes is repealed and the
102 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

103 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any
104 immediate family member, shall issue a special certificate of
105 registration and a set of number plates memorializing residents of this
106 state who were killed in action while performing active military duty
107 with the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103. Such registration
108 and number plates shall be available for any motor vehicle owned or
109 leased for a period of at least one year. Such number plates shall expire
110 and be renewed as provided in section 14-22. No fee shall be charged
111 for such plates. Such plates shall bear the words "Gold Star Family",
112 and the design of such plates shall be approved by a committee
113 established by the commissioner. For the purposes of this section,
114 "immediate family member" [includes] means a spouse, mother, father,
115 brother, sister, child, grandmother or grandfather of a resident of this
116 state who was killed in action while performing active military duty
117 with the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-36h
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-20c

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), the reference to Subsec. (g) was deleted from Subdiv. (9) and Subdiv. (10) was added, for accuracy.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*