

**As Reported by the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee**

**131st General Assembly**

**Regular Session  
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**Sub. H. B. No. 173**

**Representatives Anielski, Terhar**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Dever, Butler, Brenner, Hambley, Becker, Stinziano, Grossman, Blessing, Retherford, Johnson, T., Kraus, Perales, Arndt, Bishoff, Fedor, Landis, O'Brien, M., Young**

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**A BILL**

To enact sections 317.241 and 5902.09 of the  
Revised Code to authorize a county recorder or  
county veterans service office, with the  
approval of the board of county commissioners,  
to issue Ohio veterans identification cards.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 317.241 and 5902.09 of the  
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

**Sec. 317.241.** (A) The board of county commissioners may by  
resolution allow the county recorder or county veterans service  
office to issue Ohio veterans identification cards to  
individuals who have met the following requirements:

(1) Presented the individual's armed forces discharge  
record for recording in the record of discharges in the office  
of the county recorder;

(2) Provided, while appearing in person at a county

recorder's office or county veterans service office, two forms 16  
of current and valid identification, at least one of which bears 17  
a photograph of the individual; 18

(3) Paid a fee, if a fee has been established by the 19  
county. 20

A board of county commissioners may, by resolution, 21  
authorize a county recorder or county veterans service office to 22  
collect a fee from individuals requesting a veterans 23  
identification card. The fee may not exceed two dollars. 24

If a county veterans service office maintains access to 25  
the state and federal military service verification system, the 26  
county veterans service office or county recorder, by consulting 27  
the county veterans service office, shall confirm before issuing 28  
a veterans identification card that the individual's armed 29  
forces discharge record exists in the system's database and does 30  
not indicate the individual was dishonorably discharged. 31

(B) A county recorder or county veterans service office 32  
who has in operation, before the effective date of this section, 33  
a program to issue veterans identification cards may continue to 34  
issue veterans identification cards without a resolution of the 35  
board of county commissioners, if the county recorder or county 36  
veterans service office conforms the program, as necessary, so 37  
that it otherwise is in compliance with this section. 38

(C) An Ohio veterans identification card expires ten years 39  
after the date of issuance. A veteran whose identification card 40  
has expired may apply to a county recorder or county veterans 41  
service office for the issuance of a new identification card, 42  
and a veteran whose current card has been lost or damaged may 43  
apply to a county recorder or county veterans service office for 44

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| <u>a replacement identification card, by meeting the requirements</u>   | 45 |
| <u>described in this section.</u>                                       | 46 |
| <u>(D) The following documents are valid forms of</u>                   | 47 |
| <u>identification for the purposes of this section:</u>                 | 48 |
| <u>(1) An original or a certified birth certificate;</u>                | 49 |
| <u>(2) An identification card issued by the United States</u>           | 50 |
| <u>department of veterans affairs;</u>                                  | 51 |
| <u>(3) A United States military identification card;</u>                | 52 |
| <u>(4) A social security card;</u>                                      | 53 |
| <u>(5) A license or permit to carry a concealed weapon issued</u>       | 54 |
| <u>by this state or any other state;</u>                                | 55 |
| <u>(6) A motor vehicle operator's license issued by this</u>            | 56 |
| <u>state or any other state that bears a photograph of the</u>          | 57 |
| <u>licensee;</u>  | 58 |
| <u>(7) An identification card issued by this state or any</u>           | 59 |
| <u>other state that bears a photograph of the individual</u>            | 60 |
| <u>identified;</u>  | 61 |
| <u>(8) A valid passport that bears a photograph of the</u>              | 62 |
| <u>individual to whom the passport was issued;</u>                      | 63 |
| <u>(9) A United States armed forces discharge record.</u>               | 64 |
| <u>(E) Fees collected under this section shall be deposited</u>         | 65 |
| <u>into the county treasury to the credit of the county general</u>     | 66 |
| <u>fund.</u>  | 67 |
| <u>(F) (1) An Ohio veterans identification card shall conform</u>       | 68 |
| <u>to the material and design standards established by the director</u> | 69 |
| <u>of veterans services.</u>  | 70 |

(2) An applicant for an Ohio veterans identification card shall be photographed in color at the time the application for the card is made. A county recorder or county veterans service office that issues identification cards shall provide the necessary equipment to take a color photograph of an applicant for an Ohio veterans identification card. Photographic records of a county recorder's office or county veterans service office that are obtained under this section are the property of the county recorder's office or county veterans service office. 71  
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(G) All application materials, including applications, photographs, documents, or other information submitted with an application or obtained by a county recorder or county veterans service office are not public records under section 149.43 of the Revised Code. The county recorder or county veterans service office may only release application materials as follows: 80  
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(1) To a state, local, or federal governmental agency for criminal justice purposes or to a court for any purpose arising in the court; 86  
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(2) To the department of veterans services, but only if the veteran gives prior signed written approval; 89  
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(3) To a county veterans service commission, but only if the veteran gives prior signed written approval. 91  
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A governmental agency, a court, the department of veterans services, or a county veterans service commission to which application materials have been released shall maintain the confidentiality of those materials. 93  
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(H) A county recorder or county veterans service office may contract with any other political subdivision of the state for Ohio veterans identification card production services. 97  
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(I) A county recorder or county veterans service office 100  
may accept donations, in the form of supplies and equipment, to 101  
be used in the production of Ohio veterans identification cards. 102

**Sec. 5902.09.** The director of veterans services, in 103  
consultation with the Ohio recorders association, county 104  
commissioners' association of Ohio, and Ohio state association 105  
of county veteran service officers, shall establish material and 106  
design standards for Ohio veterans identification cards that may 107  
be issued by county recorders or county veterans service 108  
offices. The material and design standards shall be prescribed 109  
in rules adopted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. 110

The rules shall require that an Ohio identification card 111  
include the name of this state, a distinguishing number assigned 112  
to the cardholder, a color photograph of the cardholder, the 113  
cardholder's name and residence address, the cardholder's branch 114  
of service, dates of service, and date of discharge, the name of 115  
the issuing county, the indexing number that has been assigned 116  
to the veteran's record of discharge, and the date of the card's 117  
issuance and expiration. 118

An Ohio veterans identification card shall not display the 119  
cardholder's social security number unless federal law requires 120  
the cardholder's social security number to be displayed on a 121  
veterans identification card. 122

**Section 2.** Not later than six months after the effective 123  
date of this act, the Director of Veterans Services, in 124  
consultation with the Ohio Recorders Association, County 125  
Commissioners' Association of Ohio, and Ohio State Association 126  
of County Veteran Service Officers, shall establish initial 127  
material and design standards for Ohio veterans identification 128  
cards, as required by section 5902.09 of the Revised Code. The 129

initial material and design standards shall be prescribed in 130  
rules adopted under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. 131