

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2985

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

Mr. AKIN (for himself and Mr. REYES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veteran’s I.D. Card
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. VETERANS IDENTIFICATION CARD.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Currently, veteran identification cards are
9 issued to veterans who have either completed the
10 statutory time-in-service requirement for retirement

1 from the Armed Forces or who have received a med-
2 ical-related discharge from the Armed Forces.

3 (2) A veteran who has served a minimum obli-
4 gated time in service, but who does not meet the cri-
5 teria described in paragraph (1), does not receive a
6 means of identifying the veteran's status as a vet-
7 eran other than using the official DD-214 discharge
8 papers of the veteran.

9 (3) Goods, services, and promotional activities
10 are often offered by public and private institutions
11 to veterans who demonstrate proof of service in the
12 military but it is impractical for a veteran to always
13 carry official DD-214 discharge papers to dem-
14 onstrate such proof.

15 (4) A general purpose veteran identification
16 card made available to a veteran who does not meet
17 the criteria described in paragraph (1) would be use-
18 ful to such veteran in order to demonstrate the sta-
19 tus of the veteran without having to carry and use
20 official DD-214 discharge papers.

21 (5) The Department of Veterans Affairs has
22 the infrastructure in place across the United States
23 to produce photographic identification cards and ac-
24 cept a small payment to cover the cost of these
25 cards.

1 (b) PROVISION OF VETERAN IDENTIFICATION
2 CARDS.—Chapter 57 of title 38, United States Code, is
3 amended by adding after section 5705 the following new
4 section:

5 **“§ 5706. Veterans identification card**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
7 fairs shall issue an identification card described in sub-
8 section (b) to any covered veteran who—

9 “(1) requests such card;

10 “(2) was discharged from the Armed Forces
11 under honorable conditions;

12 “(3) presents a copy of the DD–214 form or
13 other official document from the official military
14 personnel file of the veteran that describes the serv-
15 ice of the veteran; and

16 “(4) pays the fee under subsection (c)(1).

17 “(b) IDENTIFICATION CARD.—An identification card
18 described in this subsection is a card that—

19 “(1) displays a photograph of the covered vet-
20 eran;

21 “(2) displays the name of the covered veteran;

22 “(3) explains that such card is not proof of any
23 benefits to which the veteran is entitled to;

24 “(4) contains an identification number that is
25 not a social security number; and

1 “(5) serves as proof that such veteran—

2 “(A) honorably served in the Armed
3 Forces; and

4 “(B) has a DD–214 form or other official
5 document in the official military personnel file
6 of the veteran that describes the service of the
7 veteran.

8 “(c) COSTS OF CARD.—(1) The Secretary shall
9 charge a fee to each veteran who receives an identification
10 card issued under this section, including a replacement
11 identification card.

12 “(2)(A) The fee charged under paragraph (1) shall
13 equal an amount that the Secretary determines is nec-
14 essary to issue an identification card under this section.

15 “(B) In determining the amount of the fee under sub-
16 paragraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure that the total
17 amount of fees collected under paragraph (1) equals an
18 amount necessary to carry out this section, including costs
19 related to any additional equipment or personnel required
20 to carry out this section.

21 “(C) The Secretary shall review and reassess the de-
22 termination under subparagraph (A) during each five-year
23 period in which the Secretary issues an identification card
24 under this section.

1 “(3) Amounts collected under this subsection shall be
2 deposited in an account of the Department available to
3 carry out this section. Amounts so deposited shall be
4 merged with amounts in such account and shall be subject
5 to the same conditions and limitations as amounts other-
6 wise in such account.

7 “(d) EFFECT OF CARD ON BENEFITS.—(1) An iden-
8 tification card issued under this section shall not serve as
9 proof of any benefits that the veteran may be entitled to
10 under this title.

11 “(2) A covered veteran who is issued an identification
12 card under this section shall not be entitled to any benefits
13 under this title by reason of possessing such card.

14 “(e) ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES.—(1) The Sec-
15 retary shall ensure that any information collected or used
16 with respect to an identification card issued under this
17 section is appropriately secured.

18 “(2) The Secretary may determine any appropriate
19 procedures with respect to issuing a replacement identi-
20 fication card.

21 “(3) In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall
22 coordinate with the National Personnel Records Center.

23 “(4) The Secretary may conduct such outreach to ad-
24 vertise the identification card under this section as the
25 Secretary considers appropriate.

1 “(f) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
2 the term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who—

3 “(1) is not entitled to retired pay under chapter
4 1223 of title 10; and

5 “(2) is not enrolled in the system of patient en-
6 rollment under section 1705 of this title.”.

7 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
8 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
9 after the item relating to section 5705 the following new
10 item:

“5706. Veterans identification card.”.

11 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
12 this Act shall take effect on the date that is 60 days after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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