

1 S.256

2 Introduced by Senators Williams, Collamore, Gulick, Hashim, Norris and

3 Weeks

4 Referred to Committee on Transportation

5 Date: January 12, 2024

6 Subject: Motor vehicles; veterans; driver's licenses; nondriver identification

7 cards; commercial driver's licenses; number plates

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to extend the

9 issuance of Department of Motor Vehicles credentials and number plates with

10 a veteran designation to individuals disabled during active duty for training.

11 An act relating to Department of Motor Vehicles credentials and number
12 plates with veteran designations

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly for the State to properly honor veterans, which includes Vermonters who have served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who have been discharged or released from active service under conditions other than dishonorable, where active military, naval, air, or space service includes:

(1) active duty;

(2) any period of active duty for training during which the individual concerned was disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty; and

(3) any period of inactive duty training during which the individual concerned was disabled or died from an injury incurred or aggravated in line

of duty or from an acute myocardial infarction, a cardiac arrest, or a cerebrovascular accident occurring during such training.

(b) It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs:

(1) jointly determine which specialty plates should be offered to veterans so as to ensure specific recognition for those who have received a military award or decoration and those who have served in combat; and

(2) allow for a means for a veteran to request that a new specialty plate be designed and offered to veterans when an existing specialty plate does not provide for specific recognition of the veteran.

1 Sec. ~~1~~ 2. 23 V.S.A. § 7(b) is amended to read:

2 (b) In addition to any other requirement of law or rule, before an enhanced
3 license may be issued to ~~a person~~ an individual, the ~~person~~ individual shall
4 present for inspection and copying satisfactory documentary evidence to
5 determine identity and U.S. citizenship. An application shall be accompanied
6 by: a photo identity document, documentation showing the ~~person's~~
7 individual's date and place of birth, proof of the ~~person's~~ individual's Social
8 Security number, and documentation showing the ~~person's~~ individual's
9 principal residence address. New and renewal application forms shall include
10 a space for the applicant to request that a "veteran" designation be placed on
11 the enhanced license. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and
12 including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space
13 service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and
14 provides a Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of veteran status
15 specified by the Commissioner, and the Office of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs

1 confirms ~~his or her~~ the individual's status as an honorably discharged veteran
2 ~~or~~; a veteran discharged under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled
3 during active military, naval, air, or space service, the identification card shall
4 include the term "veteran" on its face. To be issued, an enhanced license must
5 meet the same requirements as those for the issuance of a U.S. passport.
6 Before an application may be processed, the documents and information shall
7 be verified as determined by the Commissioner. Any additional personal
8 identity information not currently required by the U.S. Department of
9 Homeland Security shall need the approval of either the General Assembly or
10 the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules prior to the
11 implementation of the requirements.

12 Sec. ~~2-3~~. 23 V.S.A. § 115 is amended to read:

13 § 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

14 (a) Any Vermont resident may make application to the Commissioner and
15 be issued an identification card that is attested by the Commissioner as to true
16 name, correct age, residential address unless the listing of another address is
17 requested by the applicant or is otherwise authorized by law, and any other
18 identifying data as the Commissioner may require that shall include, in the
19 case of minor applicants, the written consent of the applicant's parent,
20 guardian, or other person standing in loco parentis. Every application for an
21 identification card shall be signed by the applicant and shall contain such

1 evidence of age and identity as the Commissioner may require, consistent with
2 subsection (1) of this section. New and renewal application forms shall include
3 a space for the applicant to request that a “veteran” designation be placed on
4 the applicant’s identification card. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C.
5 § 101(2) and including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air,
6 or space service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran
7 designation and provides a Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of
8 veteran status specified by the Commissioner, and the Office of ~~Veterans~~
9 Veterans’ Affairs confirms the veteran’s status as an honorably discharged
10 veteran ~~or~~; a veteran discharged under honorable conditions; or an individual
11 disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, the identification
12 card shall include the term “veteran” on its face. The Commissioner shall
13 require payment of a fee of \$29.00 at the time application for an identification
14 card is made, except that an initial nondriver identification card shall be issued
15 at no charge to an individual who surrenders the individual’s license in
16 connection with a suspension or revocation under subsection 636(b) of this
17 title due to a physical or mental condition.

18 * * *

19 ~~Sec. 2-1-23 V.S.A. § 304 is amended to read:~~

20 ~~§ 304. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES; NUMBER PLATES; VANITY~~

21 ~~AND OTHER SPECIAL PLATES~~

1 ~~_____~~

2 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, upon proper application,
3 issue special plates to Vermont veterans, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and
4 including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space
5 service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), and to members of the U.S. Armed
6 Forces, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(10), for use on vehicles registered at the
7 pleasure car rate, on vehicles registered at the motorcycle rate, and on trucks
8 registered for less than 26,001 pounds and excluding vehicles registered under
9 the International Registration Plan. The type and style of the plate shall be
10 determined by the Commissioner, except that an American flag, or a veteran-
11 or military-related emblem selected by the Commissioner and the Vermont
12 Office of Veterans' Affairs shall appear on one side of the plate. At a
13 minimum, emblems shall be available to recognize recipients of the Purple
14 Heart, Pearl Harbor survivors, former prisoners of war, and disabled veterans.
15 An applicant shall apply on a form prescribed by the Commissioner, and the
16 applicant's eligibility as a member of one of the groups recognized will be
17 certified by the Office of Veterans' Affairs. The plates shall be reissued only
18 to the original holder of the plates or the surviving spouse. The Commissioner
19 may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subsection. Except for
20 new or renewed registrations, applications for the issuance of plates under this
21 ~~subsection shall be processed in the order received by the Department subject~~

1 ~~to normal workflow considerations. The costs associated with developing new~~
2 ~~emblems shall be borne by the Department of Motor Vehicles.~~

3 ~~_____~~
Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 304 is amended to read:

*§ 304. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES; NUMBER PLATES; VANITY
AND OTHER SPECIAL PLATES*

** * **

(j) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, upon proper application, issue special plates to Vermont veterans, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), and to members of the U.S. Armed Forces, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(10), for use on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate, on vehicles registered at the motorcycle rate, and on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds and excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan. The type and style of the plate plates shall be determined by the Commissioner, ~~except that an American flag, or a veteran or military-related emblem selected by the Commissioner and the Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs shall appear on one side of the plate. At a minimum, emblems shall be available to recognize recipients of the Purple Heart, Pearl Harbor survivors, former prisoners of war, and disabled veterans. An applicant shall apply on a form prescribed by the Commissioner, and the applicant's eligibility as a member of one of the groups recognized will be certified by the Office of Veterans' Affairs. The plates shall be reissued only to the original holder of the plates or the surviving spouse. The Commissioner may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subsection. Except for new or renewed registrations, applications for the issuance of plates under this subsection shall be processed in the order received by the Department subject to normal workflow considerations. The costs associated with developing new emblems shall be borne by the Department of Motor Vehicles.~~

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4 *Sec. ~~4~~5. 23 V.S.A. § 610(a) is amended to read:*

5 (a) The Commissioner shall assign a distinguishing number to each
6 licensee and shall furnish the licensee with a license certificate that shows the
7 number and the licensee's full name, date of birth, and residential address,

1 except that at the request of the licensee, the licensee's mailing address may be
2 listed, or an alternative address may be listed if otherwise authorized by law.

3 The certificate also shall include a brief physical description and a space for
4 the signature of the licensee. The license shall be void until signed by the
5 licensee. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including an
6 individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as
7 defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and provides
8 proof of veteran status as specified in subdivision 603(a)(3) of this title, and
9 the Office of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs confirms ~~his or her~~ the individual's
10 status as an honorably discharged veteran ~~or~~ a veteran discharged under
11 honorable conditions, ~~;~~ or an individual disabled during active military, naval,
12 air, or space service, the license certificate shall include the term "veteran" on
13 its face.

14 Sec. ~~5~~⁶. 23 V.S.A. § 4111 is amended to read:

15 § 4111. COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE

16 (a) Contents of license. A commercial driver's license shall be marked
17 "commercial driver's license" or "CDL" and shall be, to the maximum extent
18 practicable, tamper proof and shall include the following information:

19 * * *

20 (12) A veteran designation if a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2)
21 and including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space

1 service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests the designation and
2 provides proof of veteran status as specified in subdivision 4110(a)(5) of this
3 title, and if the Office of Veterans ~~Veterans~~' Affairs confirms his or her the
4 individual's status as an honorably discharged veteran ~~or~~; a veteran discharged
5 under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled during active military,
6 naval, air, or space service.

7 * * *

8 Sec. ~~6~~ 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on passage.