

1 S.256

2 An act relating to Department of Motor Vehicles credentials and number
3 plates with veteran designations

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

5 Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

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

11 (1) active duty;

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

15 (3) any period of inactive duty training during which the individual
16 concerned was disabled or died from an injury incurred or aggravated in line of
17 duty or from an acute myocardial infarction, a cardiac arrest, or a
18 cerebrovascular accident occurring during such training.

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

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

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

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

8 (b) In addition to any other requirement of law or rule, before an enhanced
9 license may be issued to ~~a person~~ an individual, the ~~person~~ individual shall
10 present for inspection and copying satisfactory documentary evidence to
11 determine identity and U.S. citizenship. An application shall be accompanied
12 by: a photo identity document, documentation showing the ~~person's~~
13 individual's date and place of birth, proof of the ~~person's~~ individual's Social
14 Security number, and documentation showing the ~~person's~~ individual's
15 principal residence address. New and renewal application forms shall include
16 a space for the applicant to request that a “veteran” designation be placed on
17 the enhanced license. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and
18 including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space
19 service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and
20 provides a Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of veteran status
21 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. 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 case
19 of minor applicants, the written consent of the applicant's parent, guardian, or
20 other person standing in loco parentis. Every application for an identification
21 card shall be signed by the applicant and shall contain such evidence of age

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

18 * * *

1 Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 304 is amended to read:

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

4 * * *

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

1 may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subsection. Except for
2 new or renewed registrations, applications for the issuance of plates under this
3 subsection shall be processed in the order received by the Department subject
4 to normal workflow considerations. The costs associated with developing new
5 emblems shall be borne by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

6 * * *

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

8 (a) The Commissioner shall assign a distinguishing number to each
9 licensee and shall furnish the licensee with a license certificate that shows the
10 number and the licensee's full name, date of birth, and residential address,
11 except that at the request of the licensee, the licensee's mailing address may be
12 listed, or an alternative address may be listed if otherwise authorized by law.
13 The certificate also shall include a brief physical description and a space for
14 the signature of the licensee. The license shall be void until signed by the
15 licensee. If a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2) and including an
16 individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space service, as
17 defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests a veteran designation and provides
18 proof of veteran status as specified in subdivision 603(a)(3) of this title, and
19 the Office of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs confirms ~~his or her~~ the individual's
20 status as an honorably discharged veteran ~~or~~; a veteran discharged under
21 honorable conditions; or an individual disabled during active military, naval,

1 air, or space service, the license certificate shall include the term “veteran” on
2 its face.

3 Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 4111 is amended to read:

4 § 4111. COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE

5 (a) Contents of license. A commercial driver’s license shall be marked
6 “commercial driver’s license” or “CDL” and shall be, to the maximum extent
7 practicable, tamper proof and shall include the following information:

8 * * *

9 (12) A veteran designation if a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2)
10 and including an individual disabled during active military, naval, air, or space
11 service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(24), requests the designation and
12 provides proof of veteran status as specified in subdivision 4110(a)(5) of this
13 title, and if the Office of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans’ Affairs confirms ~~his or her~~ the
14 individual’s status as an honorably discharged veteran ~~or~~; a veteran discharged
15 under honorable conditions; or an individual disabled during active military,
16 naval, air, or space service.

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18 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on passage.