1	H.351
2	Introduced by Representative Headrick of Burlington
3	Referred to Committee on
4	Date:
5	Subject: Motor vehicles; operator's licenses; operator's privilege cards;
6	nondriver identification cards
7	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make
8	operator's licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver identification cards valid for
9	eight years; to provide individuals with low income reduced fees for operator's
10	licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver identification cards; to require the
11	Department of Motor Vehicles to develop a plan to ensure that identification
12	cards contain an individual's full, legal name and are available to unhoused
13	individuals and individuals without a permanent residence; and to require the
14	Department of Motor Vehicles to conduct outreach to make Vermonters aware
15	of certain information related to obtaining an operator's license, privilege card,
16	or nondriver identification card.

- An act relating to operator's licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver
 identification cards
 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
- 20 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 601 is amended to read:

1	§ 601. LICENSE REQUIRED
2	* * *
3	(b)(1)(A) All operator's licenses issued under this chapter shall expire,
4	unless earlier cancelled, at midnight on the eve of the second or fourth
5	anniversary of the date of birth of the license holder following eight years after
6	the date of issue. Renewed licenses shall expire at midnight on the eve of the
7	second or fourth anniversary of the date of birth of the license holder following
8	the date the renewed license expired eight years after the date the renewed
9	license is issued.
10	(B) On or before July 1, 2029, an individual holding an operator's
11	licenses that is valid until the individual's second or fourth date of birth
12	following the date of issue may exchange that license for an operator's license
13	that will expire at midnight eight years after the date on which the original
14	license was issued. The fee for an operator's license obtained pursuant to an
15	exchange under the provisions of this subdivision (1) shall be \$85.00 if a two-
16	year operator's license was exchanged and \$62.00 if a four-year operator's
17	license was exchanged.
18	(2) All junior operator's licenses shall expire, unless earlier cancelled, at
19	midnight on the eve of the second anniversary of the date of birth of the license
20	holder following the date of issue.

1	(3) A person born on February 29 shall, for the purposes of this section,
2	be considered as born on March 1.
3	* * *
4	Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 603 is amended to read:
5	§ 603. APPLICATION FOR AND ISSUANCE OF LICENSE
6	(a)(1) The Commissioner or his or her the Commissioner's authorized
7	agent may license operators and junior operators when an application, on a
8	form prescribed by the Commissioner, signed and sworn to by the applicant for
9	the license, is filed with him or her the Commissioner, accompanied by the
10	required license fee and any valid license from another state or Canadian
11	jurisdiction is surrendered.
12	(2) The Commissioner may, however, in his or her the Commissioner's
13	discretion, refuse to issue a license to any person whenever he or she the
14	Commissioner is satisfied from information given him or her the
15	Commissioner by credible persons, and upon investigation, that the person is
16	mentally or physically unfit or, because of his or her the person's habits or
17	record as to crashes or convictions, is unsafe to be trusted with the operation of
18	motor vehicles. A person refused a license under the provisions of this
19	subsection shall be entitled to hearing as provided in sections 105–107 of this
20	title.

1	(3) Any new or renewal application form shall include a space for the
2	applicant to request that a "veteran" designation be placed on his or her the
3	applicant's license certificate. An applicant who requests the designation shall
4	provide a Department of Defense Form 214 or other proof of veteran status
5	specified by the Commissioner.
6	* * *
7	(d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section:
8	(1) A citizen of a foreign country shall produce his or her the
9	individual's passport and visa, alien registration receipt card (green card), or
10	other proof of legal presence for inspection and copying as a part of the
11	application process for an operator's license, junior operator's license, or
12	learner's permit.
13	(2) An operator's license, junior operator's license, or learner's permit
14	issued to a citizen of a foreign country shall expire coincidentally with his or
15	her the individual's authorized duration of stay.
16	(e)(1) A citizen of a foreign country unable to establish legal presence in
17	the United States who furnishes reliable proof of Vermont residence and of
18	name, date of birth, and place of birth, and who satisfies all other requirements
19	of this chapter for obtaining a license or permit, shall be eligible to obtain an
20	operator's privilege card, a junior operator's privilege card, or a learner's
21	privilege card.

1	(2) The Commissioner shall require applicants under this subsection to
2	furnish a document or a combination of documents that reliably proves the
3	applicant's name, date of birth, and place of birth. The Commissioner may
4	prescribe the documents or combination of documents that meets these criteria.
5	However, the Commissioner shall accept a combination of two or more of the
6	following documents to establish the name, date of birth, and place of birth of
7	an applicant:
8	(A) a valid foreign passport, with or without a U.S. Customs and
9	Border Protection entry form or stamp;
10	(B) a valid consular identification document issued by the
11	government of Mexico or of Guatemala or by any other government with
12	comparable security standards and protocols, as determined by the
13	Commissioner; and
14	(C) a certified record of the applicant's birth, marriage, adoption, or
15	divorce, including a translation if necessary.
16	(3) The Commissioner shall require applicants under this subsection to
17	furnish a document or a combination of documents that reliably proves the
18	applicant's Vermont residence. The Commissioner may prescribe the
19	documents or combination of documents that meets these criteria. However,
20	the Commissioner shall accept the following combinations of documents as
21	proof of Vermont residence:

1	(A)(i) two pieces of mail received by the applicant within the prior
2	30 days with the applicant's current name and residential Vermont address;
3	and
4	(ii) at least one of the documents specified in subdivision (B) of
5	this subdivision (3); or
6	(B) two of the following that show name and residential Vermont
7	address:
8	(i) a vehicle title or registration;
9	(ii) a document issued by a financial institution, such as a bank
10	statement;
11	(iii) a document issued by an insurance company or agent, such as
12	an insurance card, binder, or bill;
13	(iv) a document issued by an educational institution, such as a
14	transcript, report card, or enrollment confirmation;
15	(v) federal tax documents, such as W-2 or 1099 forms;
16	(vi) State tax documents, such as an IN-111; and
17	(vii) medical health records, receipts, or bills.
18	(f) Persons able to establish lawful presence in the United States but who
19	otherwise fail to comply with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005,
20	Pub. L. No. 109-13, §§ 201–202, shall be eligible for an operator's privilege
21	card, a junior operator's privilege card, or a learner's privilege card, provided

1	the applicant furnishes reliable proof of Vermont residence and of name, date
2	of birth, and place of birth, and satisfies all other requirements of this chapter
3	for obtaining a license or permit. The Commissioner shall require applicants
4	under this subsection to furnish a document or a combination of documents
5	that reliably proves the applicant's Vermont residence and his or her the
6	applicant's name, date of birth, and place of birth.
7	* * *
8	(h) A privilege card issued under this section shall:
9	(1) on its face bear the phrase "privilege card" and text indicating that it
10	is not valid for federal identification or official purposes; and
11	(2) expire at midnight on the eve of the second birthday of the applicant
12	following eight years after the date of issuance or, at the option of an applicant
13	for an operator's privilege card and upon payment of the required four year
14	fee, at midnight on the eve of the fourth birthday of the applicant following the
15	date of issuance.
16	* * *
17	(j) On or before July 1, 2029, an individual holding a privilege card under
18	this section that is valid until the individual's second or fourth date of birth
19	following the date of issue may exchange that license for a privilege card that
20	will expire at midnight eight years after the date on which the privilege card
21	was issued. The fee for a privilege card obtained pursuant to an exchange

1	under the provisions of this subsection shall be \$85.00 if a two-year privilege
2	card was exchanged and \$62.00 if a four-year privilege card was exchanged.
3	Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read:
4	§ 608. FEES
5	(a)(1) The four year fee required to be paid the Commissioner for licensing
6	an operator of motor vehicles or for issuing an operator's privilege card shall
7	be \$62.00. The two-year fee required to be paid the Commissioner for
8	licensing an operator or for issuing an operator's privilege card shall be \$39.00
9	The eight-year fee required to be paid the Commissioner for licensing an
10	operator of motor vehicles or for issuing an operator's privilege card shall be
11	\$124.00, and the two-year fee for licensing a junior operator or for issuing a
12	junior operator's privilege card shall be \$39.00.
13	(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection:
14	(A) for an individual whose household income is less than 150
15	percent of the Federal Poverty Level, the eight-year fee required to be paid the
16	Commissioner for licensing an operator of motor vehicles or for issuing an
17	operator's privilege card shall be \$0.00; and
18	(B) for an individual whose household income is less than 200
19	percent of the Federal Poverty Level, the eight-year fee required to be paid the
20	Commissioner for licensing an operator of motor vehicles or for issuing an
21	operator's privilege card shall be \$62.00.

1	(b)(1) An additional fee of 4.00 per year shall be paid for a motorcycle
2	endorsement. The endorsement may be obtained for either a two-year or four-
3	year an eight-year period, to be coincidental with the length of the operator's
4	license.
5	(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection:
6	(A) for an individual whose household income is less than 150
7	percent of the Federal Poverty Level, the additional fee for a motorcycle
8	endorsement shall be \$0.00 per year; and
9	(B) for an individual whose household income is less than 200
10	percent of the Federal Poverty Level, the additional fee for a motorcycle
11	endorsement shall be \$2.00 per year.
12	Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 115 is amended to read:
13	§ 115. NONDRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS
14	* * *
15	(b)(1) Every identification card shall expire, unless earlier canceled, at
16	12:00 midnight on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the date of birth of the
17	cardholder following eight years after the date of original issue and may be
18	renewed every four eight years upon payment of a \$29.00 fee.
19	(2) A renewed identification card shall expire, unless earlier canceled, at
20	12:00 midnight on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the date of birth of the
21	cardholder following eight years after the expiration of the card being renewed.

1	(3) At least 30 days before an identification card will expire, the
2	Commissioner shall mail first-class to the cardholder or send the cardholder
3	electronically an application to renew the identification card; a cardholder shall
4	be sent the renewal notice by mail unless the cardholder opts in to receive
5	electronic notification.
6	(4) On or before July 1, 2029, an individual holding an identification
7	card that is valid until the individual's fourth date of birth following the date of
8	issue may exchange that identification card for an identification card that will
9	expire eight years after the date on which the original identification card was
10	issued. The shall be no fee to exchange a four-year identification card for an
11	eight-year identification card pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision.
12	(5) An individual born on February 29 shall, for the purposes of this
13	section, be considered as born on March 1.
14	* * *
15	(l)(1) The Commissioner shall issue identification cards to Vermont
16	residents who are not U.S. citizens but are able to establish lawful presence in
17	the United States if an applicant follows the procedures and furnishes
18	documents as required under subsection 603(d) of this title and any applicable
19	policies or adopted rules, and otherwise satisfies the requirements of this
20	section. The identification cards shall expire consistent with subsection 603(d)
21	of this title.

1	(2) The Commissioner shall issue non-REAL ID compliant
2	identification cards to Vermont residents unable to establish lawful presence in
3	the United States if an applicant follows the procedures and furnishes
4	documents as required under subsection 603(e) of this title and any applicable
5	policies or adopted rules, and otherwise satisfies the requirements of this
6	section.
7	(3) The Commissioner shall issue non-REAL ID compliant
8	identification cards to Vermont residents able to establish lawful presence in
9	the United States but who otherwise fail to comply with the requirements of
10	the REAL ID Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-13, §§ 201–202, if the applicant
11	follows the procedures and furnishes documents as required under subsection
12	603(f) of this title and any applicable policies or adopted rules, and otherwise
13	satisfies the requirements of this section.
14	(4) A non-REAL ID compliant identification card issued under
15	subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection shall bear on its face text indicating
16	that it is not valid for federal identification or official purposes.
17	* * *
18	Sec. 5. INTENT; REPORT
19	(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that:
20	(1) individuals be able to obtain an operator's license, privilege card, or
21	nondriver identification that accurately reflects the individual's full, legal

1	name, including individuals with multiple first or last names, or whose names
2	contain special characters; and
3	(2) unhoused individuals and individuals without a permanent residence
4	be able to obtain an operator's license, privilege card, or nondriver
5	identification.
6	(b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, on or before December 31,
7	2025, report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding:
8	(1) the Department's ability to issue operator's licenses, privilege cards,
9	and nondriver identification cards that accurately reflects the holder's full,
10	legal name;
11	(2) any technological, practical, or legal impediments that prevent the
12	Department from issuing operator's licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver
13	identification cards that accurately reflect the holder's full, legal name;
14	(3) any measures necessary to address the impediments identified
15	pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection;
16	(4) legal and practical issues that prevent or limit the Department's
17	ability to issue operator's licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver
18	identifications to individuals who are unhoused or who lack a permanent
19	residence;

1	(5) a proposed process to enable the Department to issue operator's
2	licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver identifications to individuals who are
3	unhoused or who lack a permanent residence; and
4	(6) any legislative action necessary to implement the process described
5	pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection.
6	Sec. 6. OUTREACH
7	(a) On or before November 15, 2025, the Department of Motor Vehicles
8	shall develop and implement a public education and outreach campaign to
9	inform Vermont residents about:
10	(1) an individual's rights to obtain an operator's license, privilege card,
11	or nondriver identification card;
12	(2) the ability to obtain an operator's license, privilege card, or
13	nondriver identification card that expires eight years after the date of issue;
14	(3) an individual's rights to self-attest with respect to the gender marker
15	on the individual's operator's license, privilege card, or nondriver
16	identification card; and
17	(4) reduced fees and fee waivers that are available to households that
18	meet certain income thresholds.
19	(b) The education and outreach campaign shall include printed materials
20	and public service announcements on television, radio, internet, and social
21	media.

- 1 (c) Public service announcements created for the education and outreach
- 2 <u>campaign shall be in both English and Spanish</u>. Printed materials created for
- 3 the education and outreach campaign shall be in English, Spanish, and the next
- 4 <u>eight most commonly spoken languages in Vermont.</u>
- 5 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 6 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.