

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 91

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19, 2015

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

4 **SEC. 2. VETERANS IDENTIFICATION CARD.**

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

6 (1) Currently, veteran identification cards are
7 issued to veterans who have either completed the
8 statutory time-in-service requirement for retirement
9 from the Armed Forces or who have received a med-
10 ical-related discharge from the Armed Forces.

11 (2) A veteran who has served a minimum obli-
12 gated time in service, but who does not meet the cri-
13 teria described in paragraph (1), does not receive a
14 means of identifying the veteran’s status as a vet-
15 eran other than using the official DD–214 discharge
16 papers of the veteran.

17 (3) Goods, services, and promotional activities
18 are often offered by public and private institutions
19 to veterans who demonstrate proof of service in the
20 military, but it is impractical for a veteran to always
21 carry official DD–214 discharge papers to dem-
22 onstrate such proof.

23 (4) A general purpose veteran identification
24 card made available to a veteran who does not meet
25 the criteria described in paragraph (1) would be use-
26 ful to such veteran in order to demonstrate the sta-

1 tus of the veteran without having to carry and use
2 official DD–214 discharge papers.

3 (5) The Department of Veterans Affairs has
4 the infrastructure in place across the United States
5 to produce photographic identification cards and ac-
6 cept a small payment to cover the cost of these
7 cards.

8 (b) PROVISION OF VETERAN IDENTIFICATION
9 CARDS.—Chapter 57 of title 38, United States Code, is
10 amended by adding after section 5705 the following new
11 section:

12 **“§ 5706. Veterans identification card**

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

16 “(1) requests such card;

17 “(2) was discharged from the Armed Forces
18 under honorable conditions;

19 “(3) presents a copy of the DD–214 form or
20 other official document from the official military
21 personnel file of the veteran that describes the serv-
22 ice of the veteran; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 “(A) honorably served in the Armed
10 Forces; and

11 “(B) has a DD-214 form or other official
12 document in the official military personnel file
13 of the veteran that describes the service of the
14 veteran.

15 “(c) COSTS OF CARD.—(1) The Secretary shall
16 charge a fee to each veteran who receives an identification
17 card issued under this section, including a replacement
18 identification card.

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

22 “(B) In determining the amount of the fee under sub-
23 paragraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure that the total
24 amount of fees collected under paragraph (1) equals an
25 amount necessary to carry out this section, including costs

1 related to any additional equipment or personnel required
2 to carry out this section.

3 “(C) The Secretary shall review and reassess the de-
4 termination under subparagraph (A) during each 5-year
5 period in which the Secretary issues an identification card
6 under this section.

7 “(3) Amounts collected under this subsection shall be
8 deposited in an account of the Department available to
9 carry out this section. Amounts so deposited shall be—

10 “(A) merged with amounts in such account;

11 “(B) available in such amounts as may be pro-
12 vided in appropriation Acts; and

13 “(C) subject to the same conditions and limita-
14 tions as amounts otherwise in such account.

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 “(f) CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall not be con-
10 strued to affect identification cards otherwise provided by
11 the Secretary to veterans enrolled in the health care sys-
12 tem established under section 1705(a) of this title.

13 “(g) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
14 the term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who—

15 “(1) is not entitled to retired pay under chapter
16 1223 of title 10; and

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

19 “(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
20 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
21 after the item relating to section 5705 the following new
22 item:

“5706. Veterans identification card.”.

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

Passed the House of Representatives May 18, 2015.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.

By ROBERT F. REEVES,

Deputy Clerk.