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S.B. 294
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Maharath

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SUMMARY

- Authorizes the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to issue a free state identification card to both of the following:
 - Any veteran (rather than only to a veteran with a 100% service-connected disability, as in current law);
 - Any unemployed person with a mobility impairment (rather than only to an unemployed person with a permanent or irreversible disability, as in current law).
- Requires the Registrar to adopt rules governing the documentation that a mobility-impaired person or veteran must submit to certify that status.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Free state identification cards

Under current law, a person may obtain an identification card, in lieu of a driver's license, to use when an official identification is needed. The bill authorizes the Registrar of Motor Vehicles (or a deputy registrar) to issue a free state identification card to both of the following:

- Any veteran; and
- Any unemployed mobility-impaired person.¹

Under the bill, a mobility-impaired person is any person, regardless of age, who is subject to a physiological defect or deficiency regardless of its cause, nature, or extent that renders the person unable to move about without the aid of crutches, a wheelchair, or any

¹ R.C. 4507.50(C) and (D) and 4507.52(A)(8)(b).

other form of support, or that limits the person’s functional ability to ambulate, climb, descend, sit, rise, or perform any related function. A mobility-impaired person specifically includes all of the following:

- A person with a neurological or psychological disability that limits the person’s functional ability to ambulate, climb, descend, sit, rise, or perform any related function;
- A person with a seizure disorder; and
- A person who is diagnosed with autism.²

The bill requires the Registrar to adopt rules governing the documentation that a veteran or mobility-impaired person must submit to certify that status.³

Under current law, a free identification card may only be issued to the following:

- A veteran with a 100% service-connected disability, as determined by the Veterans’ Administration; and
- An unemployed person with a permanent and irreversible disability (a condition of disability from which there is no present indication of recovery).⁴

Current law requires the Registrar to adopt rules governing the documentation that a person with a permanent irreversible disability must submit to certify that status.⁵ The Registrar is authorized, but not required to, adopt rules requiring documentary evidence of disability for service-connected veterans.⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-15-22

S0294-I-134/ar

² R.C. 4507.52(A)(8)(b); R.C. 955.011, not in the bill.

³ R.C. 4507.52(A)(8)(b).

⁴ R.C. 4507.50(C) and 4507.52(A)(8)(b).

⁵ R.C. 4507.52(A)(8)(b) and see Ohio Administrative Code 4501:1-1-05.

⁶ R.C. 4507.50(C).