



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 173*

131st General Assembly

(As Reported by H. Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety)

Reps. Anielski and Terhar, Dever, Butler, Brenner, Hambley, Becker, Stinziano, Grossman, Blessing, Retherford, T. Johnson, Kraus

BILL SUMMARY

- Allows county recorders to issue veteran identification cards to individuals who satisfy specified requirements.
- Requires the Director of Veterans Services, in consultation with the Ohio Recorders Association, to establish material and design standards with which county recorders must comply in producing veteran identification cards.
- Specifies that veteran identification card application materials are not a public record under the Public Records Act.
- Requires county recorders to deposit fees received from the issuance of veteran identification cards into the county recorder's technology fund, if one exists in the county.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Veteran identification cards

Issuance

The bill allows a county recorder to issue Ohio veteran identification cards. To obtain a veterans ID card, an individual must satisfy the following requirements: (1) present the individual's armed forces discharge record for recording in the county

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

recorder's office, (2) provide, in person at the county recorder's office, two forms of current and valid identification, one of which bears a photograph of the individual, and (3) pay a fee. The fee may not exceed \$2.00.¹

The bill specifies that the following documents are valid forms of identification for purposes of satisfying the identification requirement:

- An original or a certified birth certificate.
- An identification card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- A United States military identification card.
- A Social Security card.
- A license or permit to carry a concealed weapon issued by Ohio or another state.
- A motor vehicle operator's license, issued by Ohio or another state that bears a photograph of the licensee.
- An identification card, issued by Ohio or another state, that bears a photograph of the individual identified.
- A valid passport that bears a photograph of the individual to whom the passport was issued.
- A United States Armed Forces discharge record.

An applicant must be photographed in color when an application for the veteran identification card is made. A county recorder who issues cards must provide the necessary equipment to take color photographs of card applicants. The bill specifies that all photographic records obtained by issuance of veteran identification cards are the property of the county recorder's office.²

Veteran identification cards must conform to the material and design standards established by the Director of Veterans Services.³

¹ R.C. 317.241(A).

² R.C. 317.241(D)(2).

³ R.C. 317.241(D)(1).



An individual whose current veteran identification card is lost or damaged may apply for a replacement card. A veteran identification card expires 10 years after it is issued; an individual may apply to receive a new card upon expiration. A replacement or renewal veteran identification card requires the individual to meet the requirements for issuance of the card.⁴

Application materials not public record

The bill also specifies that all application materials, including application, photographs, documents, or other information submitted with an application or obtained by a county recorder are not public records under the Public Records Act. A county recorder is authorized to release the application materials only as follows: (1) to a state, local, or federal governmental agency for criminal justice purposes or to a court for any purpose arising in the court, (2) to the Department of Veterans Services, but only if the veteran gives prior signed, written approval, or (3) to a county veterans service commission, but only if the veteran gives prior signed, written approval. The recipient of application materials must maintain the confidentiality of any materials received.⁵

County recorder's technology fund

A county recorder must deposit fees collected from the issuance of veteran identification cards into the county treasury to the credit of the recorder's technology fund. But if no such fund exists in the county, the fees must be deposited into the county's general fund.⁶

Miscellaneous

A county recorder may contract with any other political subdivision of the state for the production of veteran identification cards.⁷

A county recorder may accept donations in the form of supplies and equipment to be used in the production of veteran identification cards.⁸

⁴ R.C. 317.241(A).

⁵ R.C. 317.241(E).

⁶ R.C. 317.241(C). County recorder technology funds are created under R.C. 317.321.

⁷ R.C. 317.241(F).

⁸ R.C. 317.241(G).



Material and design standards

The Director of Veterans Services, in consultation with the Ohio Recorders Association, must establish material and design standards for veteran identification cards, which must be prescribed in rules adopted under the Administrative Procedure Act. Initial standards must be adopted not later than six months after the bill's effective date.⁹

The rules must require that a veteran identification card include "Ohio," a distinguishing number assigned to the cardholder, the name of the issuing county, the indexing number that has been assigned to the veteran's record of discharge, the date of the cards issuance and expiration, a color photograph of the cardholder, and the cardholder's name and residence address, branch of service, dates of service, and date of discharge. The card may not display the cardholder's Social Security number unless the display is required by federal law.¹⁰

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	04-28-15
Reported, H. Armed Services, Veterans Services, & Public Safety	---

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⁹ Section 2 of the bill.

¹⁰ R.C. 5902.05.

