



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 173 of the 131st G.A.

Date: June 8, 2015

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. Anielski and Terhar

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Authorizes county recorders to issue veteran identification cards

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Department of Veterans Services could incur some negligible additional expense for preparing material and design standards that county recorders must follow in producing veteran identification (ID) cards.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill allows county recorders to issue veteran IDs to individuals who satisfy specified requirements. The bill also allows county recorders who lack the equipment to produce these IDs to contract with other political subdivision entities to produce them. In either case, much of the additional costs for counties electing to issue veteran IDs would likely be offset through the \$2 production fee permitted under the bill.
- The ID fee revenues would be deposited into either the County Recorder Technology Fund if one exists or, if not, the county general fund.
- As of this writing, approximately 30 counties currently provide veteran ID cards.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill allows a county recorder to issue Ohio veteran ID cards. To be eligible to obtain this card, an individual must satisfy the following requirements: (1) present the individual's armed forces discharge record for recording in the county recorder's office, (2) provide, in person at the county recorder's office, two forms of current valid identification, one of which bears a photograph of the individual, and (3) pay a fee, which may not exceed \$2. All fee revenue under the bill is required to be deposited into the county recorder's technology fund, if one exists in that county. Otherwise, the fee is deposited into the county general fund.

The bill further specifies that an applicant must be photographed in color when an application for the veteran ID card is made. A county recorder that elects to issue cards must provide the necessary equipment to take color photographs of card applicants. The veteran ID cards must conform to the material and design standards established by the Director of Veterans Services in conjunction with the Ohio Recorders Association. The bill also specifies that the IDs are valid for ten years. In the event that an individual needs a replacement or renewal card, the person must meet the three criteria in the paragraph above.

The bill also permits a county recorder to contract with any other political subdivision of the state for the production of veteran ID cards. Additionally, county recorders are permitted to accept donations in the form of supplies and equipment to be used in the production of these ID cards. As of this writing, there are approximately 30 counties that currently offer this service. Figures from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs show that there are approximately 866,500 veterans in Ohio. Because the bill is permissive and the bill contains provisions that allow county recorders to either contract for this service, or receive equipment donations to make the IDs, it can be assumed that very few counties would opt to purchase the necessary equipment to make these IDs. Overall, any costs for the production of these IDs would be at least partially offset through the \$2 fee charged to applicants.