



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Alyssa Bethel

Sub. 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 boards of county commissioners to authorize county recorders or county veterans service offices to issue veteran identification cards to individuals who satisfy specified requirements.
- Requires the Director of Veterans Services, in consultation with the Ohio Recorders Association, County Commissioners' Association of Ohio, and Ohio State Association of County Veteran Service Officers to establish material and design standards with which county recorders or county veterans service offices 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 or county veterans service offices to deposit fees received from the issuance of veteran identification cards into the county treasury to the credit of the county general fund.

* 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.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Veteran identification cards

Issuance

The bill allows a board of county commissioners to authorize, by resolution, its county recorder or county veterans service office 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 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, if the board of county commissioners has established one by resolution. The fee may not exceed \$2. And, if a county veterans service office maintains access to the state and federal military service verification system, the county veterans service office or county recorder, by consulting the county veterans service office, must confirm before issuing a veterans identification card that the individual's armed forces discharge record exists in the system's database and does not indicate the individual was dishonorably discharged.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.

¹ R.C. 317.241(A).



- A valid passport that bears a photograph of the individual to whom the passport was issued.
- A United States Armed Forces discharge record.²

An applicant must be photographed in color when an application for the veteran identification card is made. A county recorder or county veterans service office that 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 or county veterans service office.³

Veteran identification cards must conform to the material and design standards established by the Director of Veterans Services.⁴

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.⁵

The bill allows a county recorder or county veterans service office that has a program to issue veterans identification cards in operation before the bill's effective date to continue issuing cards without authority under a resolution of the board of county commissioners if the recorder or office conforms its program to comply with the bill's requirements.⁶

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 or county veterans service office are not public records under the Public Records Act. A county recorder or county veterans service office 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

² R.C. 317.241(D).

³ R.C. 317.241(F)(2).

⁴ R.C. 317.241(F)(1).

⁵ R.C. 317.241(C).

⁶ R.C. 317.241(B).



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.⁷

County general fund

A county recorder or county veterans service office must deposit fees collected from the issuance of veteran identification cards into the county treasury to the credit of the county's general fund.⁸

Miscellaneous

A county recorder or county veterans service office may contract with any other political subdivision of the state for the production of veteran identification cards.⁹

A county recorder or county veterans service office may accept donations in the form of supplies and equipment to be used in the production of veteran identification cards.¹⁰

Material and design standards

The Director of Veterans Services, in consultation with the Ohio Recorders Association, County Commissioner's Association of Ohio, and Ohio State Association of County Veteran Service Officers 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.¹¹

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 card's 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

⁷ R.C. 317.241(G).

⁸ R.C. 317.241(E).

⁹ R.C. 317.241(H).

¹⁰ R.C. 317.241(I).

¹¹ Section 2 of the bill.



of discharge. The card may not display the cardholder's Social Security number unless the display is required by federal law.¹²

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	04-28-15
Reported, H. Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, & Public Safety	06-25-15
Re-referred to H. Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, & Public Safety	02-16-16
Reported, H. Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, & Public Safety	---

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¹² R.C. 5902.09.

