
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill allows a county recorder or county veterans service office to issue Ohio veteran ID cards if the county commissioners adopt a resolution authorizing such a program. However, those counties currently operating such a program do not need an authorizing resolution, but still must conform their programs to meet the provisions of the bill. To be eligible to obtain this card, a replacement card, or a renewal card when the initial card has lapsed after ten years, an individual must: (1) present an armed forces discharge record for recording in the county recorder's office, (2) provide two forms of current valid identification, one of which bears a photograph of the individual, and (3) pay a fee of up to \$2 (but only if such a fee is established in the authorizing resolution) for deposit into the county general fund. 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, must confirm the applicant's discharge record exists in the system and check that the applicant was not dishonorably discharged.

The bill outlines the process for making these ID cards. This includes requiring that an applicant be photographed in color, and that the necessary color photo equipment be available to take these pictures. The bill allows for county recorders or county veterans service offices to accept donated equipment and supplies used to produce the veteran ID cards. The veteran ID cards must conform to the material and design standards established by the Director of Veterans Services in conjunction with County Commissioners' Association of Ohio, the Ohio State Association of County Veteran Service Officers, and the Ohio Recorders Association. Finally, the bill permits a county recorder or county veterans service office to contract with any other political subdivision of the state for the production of veteran 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 bill contains provisions that allow county recorders to either contract for this service, or receive equipment donations to make the IDs, it may be that very few counties would opt to purchase the necessary equipment to make these IDs. Overall, a county recorder or county veterans service office could make up for this cost by charging a fee of up to \$2 as allowed under the bill. The bill specifies that this fee revenue be deposited into the county general fund.