

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Military Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee

BILL: SB 1298

INTRODUCER: Senator Detert

SUBJECT: Identification Cards and Drivers Licenses

DATE: January 26, 2012 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Willar	Carter	MS	Favorable
2.			TR	
3.			BC	
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

Current law allows a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces to obtain a capital “V” on an identification card or driver license issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to signify status as a veteran. The bill provides that until a veteran renews his or her identification card or driver license, the veteran may pay a \$2 fee and present proof of veteran status to have a temporary “V” displayed on the identification card or driver license.

Allowing a temporary “V” sticker to be affixed to an identification card or driver license would provide veterans an alternative method to display their veteran status prior to their normal renewal period rather than paying the \$25 fee to obtain a replacement credential with the permanent “V”.

This bill substantially amends sections 322.051 and 322.14 of the Florida Statutes.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2012.

II. Present Situation:

In 2011, the Legislature amended ss. 322.051 and 322.14, F.S., to allow a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces to be issued an identification card or a driver license by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), which displays a permanent capital “V” to signify status as a veteran.¹ In order to receive a capital “V” on either of these credentials, a

¹ Section 322.051(8)(b), F.S., permits a veteran to obtain a “V” on an identification card issued by the DHSMV. Section 322.14(1)(c), F.S., permits a veteran to obtain a “V” on a driver license issued by the DHSMV.

veteran must present his or her DD Form 214 (a "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty," promulgated by the United States Department of Defense) to the DHSMV, along with an additional \$1 fee.

A veteran who would like to obtain a "V" on an identification card or driver license can do so when the veteran's credential is up for renewal.² The cost to renew an identification card and a driver license is \$25 and \$48, respectively. If a veteran would like to obtain a "V" on his or her credential before it is up for renewal, the veteran would need to purchase a replacement credential. The fee for a replacement identification card or driver license is \$25.³

According to the DHSMV, since the 'V' was first offered to veterans in 2011, the DHSMV has issued 5,794 original, 15,898 renewal, and 7,061 replacement, identification cards and driver licenses; with total issuances at 28,753.⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 322.051, F.S. to allow a veteran the option to have a temporary "V" sticker affixed to his or her identification card upon the payment of a \$2 fee and presentation of a copy of his or her DD Form 214.

Section 2 amends s. 322.14, F.S., to allow a veteran the option to have a temporary "V" sticker affixed to his or her driver license card upon the payment of a \$2 fee and presentation of a copy of his or her DD Form 214.

Section 3 provides that the bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

² Section 322.18 (2)(a) F.S. states that every identification card and driver license must be renewed every eight years.

³ Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Fee Schedule. Available at: <http://www.flhsmv.gov/DHSMVFEES.HTM>. Site last viewed January 20, 2012.

⁴ Email correspondence with DHSMV staff January 25, 2012.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

A veteran who elects to obtain a temporary “V” sticker to indicate veteran status on his or her identification card or driver license will be charged a \$2 fee. The cost to replace a driver license or an identification card is \$25. The bill would allow a temporary “V” sticker to be affixed to a veteran’s identification card or driver license prior to the veteran’s normal renewal period.

C. Government Sector Impact:

According to the DHSMV, the collection of the \$2 fee will offset additional administrative costs associated with the issuance of the temporary “V” stickers. The number of veterans who will elect to obtain a temporary “V” sticker is indeterminate.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.