

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 Transportation Committee

BILL: SB 1298

INTRODUCER: Senator Detert

SUBJECT: Identification Cards and Drivers Licenses

DATE: February 3, 2012 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Willar	Carter	MS	Favorable
2.	Akhavein	Buford	TR	Pre-meeting
3.			BC	
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

To recognize and honor Florida veterans, the law currently allows a veteran of the United States Armed Forces to obtain a veteran designation on an identification card or driver license issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. This 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 capital “V” displayed on the identification card or driver license. Allowing a temporary capital “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 capital “V”.

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

II. Present Situation:

In 2011, the Legislature amended ss. 322.051 and 322.14, F.S., to allow a veteran of the United States 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 veteran must present his or her DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty issued by the United States Department of Defense) to the DHSMV, along with an additional \$1 fee.

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.

A veteran who would like to obtain a capital “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 capital “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, plus an extra \$1 fee for the designation.³

According to the DHSMV, since the capital “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 a total of 28,753 issuances.⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 322.051, F.S., to allow a veteran the option to have a temporary capital “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 capital “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 this 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.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

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.

B. Private Sector Impact:

A veteran who elects to obtain a temporary capital “V” sticker to indicate veteran status on his or her identification card or driver license will be charged a \$2 fee. The bill would allow a temporary capital “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 capital “V” stickers. The number of veterans who will elect to obtain a temporary capital “V” sticker is indeterminate.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The DHSMV has indicated that there may be other forms stipulated by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as the form DD-214 that would be acceptable for veterans to show that they have received an honorable discharge from active duty. This proof is necessary to have the veteran designation added to a driver license or identification card.

The DHSMV has also indicated that this bill does not adequately address fee requirements. It is unclear if a veteran who has paid \$2 for a temporary capital “V” designation on his or her identification card or driver license would be required to pay \$1 when he or she returns for a permanent capital “V” designation. The DHSMV believes that the intent of the bill is to not require the veteran to pay additional fees after purchasing a temporary capital “V” sticker. A veteran who has paid the initial designation fee will not be assessed another designation fee if issued a replacement driver license or identification card. The bill is silent about whether a fee will be charged on regularly scheduled renewals of identification cards and driver licenses.

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.