

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 7063 PCB PIE 22-05 Identification Cards

SPONSOR(S): Public Integrity & Elections Committee, Perez

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 144

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 116 Y's 0 N's **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Pending

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 7063 passed the House on March 9, 2022, as SB 144.

Florida law authorizes any person who is five years of age or older, or any person who has a disability regardless of age, to be issued an identification card by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) upon completion of an application and payment of a \$25 application fee. Of this amount, \$7 is deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund or retained by the county tax collector, and \$18 is deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

Under current law, DHSMV must issue identification cards at no charge to certain persons. This exemption is limited to applicants who present satisfactory evidence of homelessness, as well as specified juvenile offenders and prison inmates upon the expiration of their sentence.

SB 144 adds the following applicants to whom DHSMV must issue a Florida identification card at no charge:

- A person who presents a valid Florida voter's registration card and attests that he or she is experiencing a financial hardship. DHSMV may not require such persons to present evidence of financial hardship.
- Persons 80 years of age or older whose driving privilege is denied due to failure to pass a vision test.

The bill may have a significant negative fiscal impact on local and state government revenues as a result of adding these two new statutory fee exemptions relating to the issuance of identification cards. However, it is unknown how many individuals would qualify for the exemptions. See Fiscal Analysis.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2022.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Current Situation

Chapter 322, F.S, governs the issuance of Florida driver licenses and identification cards. Florida identification cards provide the same reliable photographic identification as Florida driver licenses. In Florida identification cards are interchangeable with driver licenses for purposes of commercial air travel, banking, and voter registration.

Florida law authorizes any person who is five years of age or older, or any person who has a disability, regardless of age, who applies for a disabled parking permit, to be issued an identification card by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) upon completion of an application and payment of an application fee.¹ The cost for an original, renewal, or replacement identification card is \$25. Of this amount, \$7 is deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund or retained by the county tax collector,² and \$18 is deposited into the General Revenue Fund.³

Under Florida law, DHSMV must issue identification cards at no charge to certain persons. The exemption is limited to applicants who present satisfactory evidence of homelessness, as well as specified juvenile offenders and prison inmates upon the expiration of their sentence.⁴

In 2020, Florida ranked second in the nation for the percentage of state population aged 65 or older. At the time of the last census, it was determined that over 21 percent of Florida citizens are in this category.⁵

Florida law requires driver licenses to be renewed every eight years, except drivers who are 80 years or older are required to renew every six years. Mandatory vision tests are required for drivers 80 years or older at each renewal.⁶

Effect of the Bill

The bill adds the following persons to the list of persons to whom DHSMV must issue a Florida identification card at no charge:

- A person who presents a valid Florida voter's registration card and attests that he or she is experiencing a financial hardship. DHSMV may not require such persons to present evidence of financial hardship.
- Persons 80 years of age or older whose driving privilege is denied due to failure to pass a vision test.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

¹ s. 322.051(1), F.S.

² This is based on whether DHSMV or the county tax collector issues the identification card.

³ s. 322.21(1)(f), F.S.

⁴ s. 322.051(9), F.S.

⁵ <https://www.prb.org/resources/which-us-states-are-the-oldest/> (last accessed: Feb. 1, 2022)

⁶ s. 322.18(2)(a) and (b), F.S.

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

The bill creates two new groups that qualify for the issuance of an identification card at no charge. It is unknown how many individuals would claim a hardship and seek an identification card at no charge. For Fiscal Year 2022-2023, DHSMV projects a likely significant decrease in revenues as a result of these two new statutory fee exemptions: \$4.3 million impact to the General Revenue Fund and \$381,794 impact to the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund. However, these impacts are indeterminate, as this bill has not been reviewed in an official revenue estimating conference to determine a consensus cost estimate, and it is indeterminate how many would qualify for a fee exemption

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

The creation of the two new groups that can receive an identification card at no charge is projected to reduce revenues collected by tax collectors by \$315,919. This projection is based upon DHSMV's calculations as the bill has not been reviewed in an official revenue estimating conference to determine a consensus cost estimate. It is unknown how many individuals would claim a hardship and seek an identification card at no charge.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Registered voters who attest to experiencing financial hardship and those at least 80 years of age who lose their driving privileges due to a vision disability will benefit from able to receive an identification card at no charge to them.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.