

STATE OF NEW YORK

10892

IN ASSEMBLY

April 8, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. STERN, BERGER, KASSAY, SCHIAVONI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to authorizing the department of motor vehicles to accept certain documentation issued to veterans of the military as acceptable proofs of identity when applying for a driver license or state identification card

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, as separately amended by chapters 158 and 440 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

1. Application for license. Application for a driver's license shall be made to the commissioner. The fee prescribed by law may be submitted with such application. The applicant shall furnish such proof of identity, age, and fitness as may be required by the commissioner. With respect to a non-commercial driver's license or learner's permit which does not meet federal standards for identification, in addition to the acceptable proofs of age and identity approved by the commissioner as of January first, two thousand nineteen, acceptable proof of identity shall also include, but not be limited to, a valid, unexpired foreign passport issued by the applicant's country of citizenship (which shall also be eligible as proof of age), a valid, unexpired consular identification document issued by a consulate from the applicant's country of citizenship, ~~[or]~~ a valid foreign driver's license that includes a photo image of the applicant and which is unexpired or expired for less than twenty-four months of its date of expiration, a certificate of release or discharge from active duty issued by the United States department of defense (DD form 214), a veteran identification card issued by the United States department of veterans affairs, or a veterans health identification card issued by the United States department of veterans affairs, as primary forms of such proof. Nothing contained in this subdivision shall be deemed to preclude the commissioner from approving additional proofs of identity and age. The license shall display the sex designation of M, F, or X as certified by the applicant, with no

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets ~~[-]~~ is old law to be omitted.

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1 additional documentation required. The applicant may amend the sex
2 designation of their driver's license upon request. Upon amendment of
3 the sex designation, the change shall be made consistent through all
4 affiliated records within the control of the department. The commission-
5 er may also provide that the application procedure shall include the
6 taking of a photo image or images of the applicant in accordance with
7 rules and regulations prescribed by the commissioner. In addition, the
8 commissioner also shall require that the applicant provide such appli-
9 cant's social security number or, in lieu thereof, with respect to an
10 application for a non-commercial driver's license or learner's permit
11 which does not meet federal standards for identification, an affidavit
12 signed by such applicant that they have not been issued a social securi-
13 ty number. The commissioner also shall provide space on the application
14 so that the applicant may request a notation upon such license that such
15 applicant is a veteran of the United States armed forces, and space on
16 the application so that the applicant may request a notation upon such
17 license that ~~[he or she]~~ such applicant is a veteran of the United
18 States armed forces, and space on the application so that the applicant
19 may register in the New York state organ and tissue donor registry under
20 section forty-three hundred ten of the public health law with the
21 following stated on the application in clear and conspicuous type:

22 "You must fill out the following section: Would you like to be added
23 to the Donate Life Registry? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this ques-
24 tion'."

25 The commissioner of health shall not maintain records of any person
26 who checks "skip this question". Except where the application is made in
27 person or electronically, failure to check a box shall not impair the
28 validity of an application, and failure to check "yes" or checking "skip
29 this question" shall not be construed to imply a wish not to donate. In
30 the case of an applicant under eighteen years of age, checking "yes"
31 shall not constitute consent to make an anatomical gift or registration
32 in the donate life registry, except as otherwise provided pursuant to
33 the provisions of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section forty-
34 three hundred one of the public health law. Where an applicant has
35 previously consented to make an anatomical gift or registered in the
36 donate life registry, checking "skip this question" or failing to check
37 a box shall not impair that consent or registration. In addition, an
38 applicant for a commercial driver's license who will operate a commer-
39 cial motor vehicle in interstate commerce shall certify that such appli-
40 cant meets the requirements to operate a commercial motor vehicle, as
41 set forth in public law 99-570, title XII, and title 49 of the code of
42 federal regulations, and all regulations promulgated by the United
43 States secretary of transportation under the hazardous materials trans-
44 portation act. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's
45 license shall submit a medical certificate at such intervals as required
46 by the federal motor carrier safety improvement act of 1999 and Part
47 383.71(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations relating to
48 medical certification and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner.
49 For purposes of this section and sections five hundred three, five
50 hundred ten-a, and five hundred ten-aa of this title, the terms "medical
51 certificate" and "medical certification" shall mean a form substantially
52 in compliance with the form set forth in Part 391.43(h) of title 49 of
53 the code of federal regulations. Upon a determination that the holder of
54 a commercial driver's license has made any false statement, with respect
55 to the application for such license, the commissioner shall revoke such
56 license.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 597 of the laws of 2025, is amended to read as follows:

1. Application for license. Application for a driver's license shall be made to the commissioner. The fee prescribed by law may be submitted with such application. The applicant shall furnish such proof of identity, age, and fitness as may be required by the commissioner. With respect to a non-commercial driver's license or learner's permit which does not meet federal standards for identification, in addition to the acceptable proofs of age and identity approved by the commissioner as of January first, two thousand nineteen, acceptable proof of identity shall also include, but not be limited to, a valid, unexpired foreign passport issued by the applicant's country of citizenship (which shall also be eligible as proof of age), a valid, unexpired consular identification document issued by a consulate from the applicant's country of citizenship, ~~or~~ a valid foreign driver's license that includes a photo image of the applicant and which is unexpired or expired for less than twenty-four months of its date of expiration, a certificate of release or discharge from active duty issued by the United States department of defense (DD form 214), a veteran identification card issued by the United States department of veterans affairs, or a veterans health identification card issued by the United States department of veterans affairs, as primary forms of such proof. Nothing contained in this subdivision shall be deemed to preclude the commissioner from approving additional proofs of identity and age. The license shall display the sex designation of M, F, or X as certified by the applicant, with no additional documentation required. The applicant may amend the sex designation of their driver's license upon request. Upon amendment of the sex designation, the change shall be made consistent through all affiliated records within the control of the department. The commissioner may also provide that the application procedure shall include the taking of a photo image or images of the applicant in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the commissioner. In addition, the commissioner also shall require that the applicant provide such applicant's social security number or, in lieu thereof, with respect to an application for a non-commercial driver's license or learner's permit which does not meet federal standards for identification, an affidavit signed by such applicant that they have not been issued a social security number. The commissioner also shall provide space on the application so that the applicant may request a notation upon such license that such applicant is a veteran of the United States armed forces, and space on the application so that the applicant may request a notation upon such license that such person is a veteran of the United States armed forces, and space on the application so that the applicant may register in the New York state organ and tissue donor registry under section forty-three hundred ten of the public health law with the following stated on the application in clear and conspicuous type:

"You must fill out the following section: Would you like to be added to the Donate Life Registry? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this question'."

The commissioner of health shall not maintain records of any person who checks "skip this question". Except where the application is made in person or electronically, failure to check a box shall not impair the validity of an application, and failure to check "yes" or checking "skip this question" shall not be construed to imply a wish not to donate. In the case of an applicant under eighteen years of age, checking "yes"

shall not constitute consent to make an anatomical gift or registration in the donate life registry, except as otherwise provided pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section forty-three hundred one of the public health law. Where an applicant has previously consented to make an anatomical gift or registered in the donate life registry, checking "skip this question" or failing to check a box shall not impair that consent or registration. Additionally, the commissioner shall ensure that space is provided on the application for a driver's license or renewal thereof to advise applicants of the existence of the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program established in 42 U.S.C. Section 274k or the national marrow donor program ("registry operator") and to allow for applicants to consent to sharing their information with the registry operator for the purposes of receiving information from the registry operator about enrolling as a potential volunteer bone marrow or blood cell donor on the national registry. Such information related to the consenting applicant shared with the registry operator shall be limited to first and last name, date of birth, email address, and physical address. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's license who will operate a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce shall certify that such applicant meets the requirements to operate a commercial motor vehicle, as set forth in public law 99-570, title XII, and title 49 of the code of federal regulations, and all regulations promulgated by the United States secretary of transportation under the hazardous materials transportation act. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's license shall submit a medical certificate at such intervals as required by the federal motor carrier safety improvement act of 1999 and Part 383.71(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations relating to medical certification and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. For purposes of this section and sections five hundred three, five hundred ten-a, and five hundred ten-aa of this title, the terms "medical certificate" and "medical certification" shall mean a form substantially in compliance with the form set forth in Part 391.43(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations. Upon a determination that the holder of a commercial driver's license has made any false statement, with respect to the application for such license, the commissioner shall revoke such license.

§ 3. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 3 of section 490 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 487 of the laws of 2012, is amended to read as follows:

(i) The commissioner shall upon submission of an appropriate application, upon payment of the prescribed fee, and upon being satisfied that the person described is the applicant and that such applicant meets the requirements set forth in subdivision two of this section, issue to such applicant a nontransferable identification card. In addition, the commissioner also shall require that an applicant for an identification card or renewal thereof provide [~~his or her~~] such applicant's social security number. The commissioner shall provide space so that an applicant may request a notation upon such identification card that [~~he or she~~] such applicant is a veteran of the United States armed forces. For purposes of verifying that the person described is the applicant pursuant to this subparagraph, the department shall accept from an applicant a certificate of release or discharge from active duty issued by the United States department of defense (DD form 214), a veteran identification card issued by the United States department of veterans affairs, or a veterans health identification card issued by the United States department of veterans affairs.

1 § 4. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
2 have become a law; provided, however, that section two of this act shall
3 take effect on the same date and in the same manner as section 2 of
4 chapter 597 of the laws of 2025, takes effect. Effective immediately,
5 the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation neces-
6 sary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are
7 authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.