

STATE OF NEW YORK

1585

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 12, 2023

Introduced by Sen. ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to special designation for veterans on driver's licenses

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (a-1) of subdivision 1 of section 504 of the
2 vehicle and traffic law, as amended by section 98 of part PP of chapter
3 56 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

4 (a-1) Every license or renewal thereof issued to an applicant who was
5 a member of the armed forces of the United States and who (i) received
6 an honorable discharge or was released therefrom under honorable condi-
7 tions, or (ii) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of
8 the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad
9 conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (iii) is a discharged LGBT
10 veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and
11 has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from
12 such service, or (iv) was a member of the National Guard or military
13 reserves who served at least twenty years, shall, upon his or her
14 request and submission of proof as set forth herein, contain a distin-
15 guishing mark, in such form as the commissioner shall determine, indi-
16 cating that he or she is a veteran. Such proof shall consist of a
17 certificate of release or discharge from active duty including but not
18 limited to a DD Form 214, or in the case of a National Guard member an
19 NGB22 Form indicating twenty years of service, or in the case of a mili-
20 tary reservist a DD Form 256 and a Notification of Eligibility for
21 Retired Pay letter, or other proof satisfactory to the commissioner. The
22 commissioner shall not require fees for the issuance of such licenses or
23 renewals thereof to persons requesting a veteran distinguishing mark
24 which are different from fees otherwise required; provided, however,
25 that notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the commissioner

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

LBD05198-01-3

1 shall not require fees for a duplication or amendment of a license prior
2 to its renewal if such duplication or amendment was solely for the
3 purpose of adding a veteran distinguishing mark to such license.

4 § 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 3 of section 490 of the vehicle and
5 traffic law, as amended by section 97 of part PP of chapter 56 of the
6 laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

7 (b) The identification card shall contain a distinguishing number or
8 mark and adequate space upon which an anatomical gift, pursuant to arti-
9 cle forty-three of the public health law, by the holder may be recorded
10 and shall contain such other information and shall be issued in such
11 form as the commissioner shall determine; provided, however, every iden-
12 tification card or renewal thereof issued to a person under the age of
13 twenty-one years shall have prominently imprinted thereon the statement
14 "UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE" in notably distinctive print or format.
15 Provided, further, however, that every identification card issued to an
16 applicant who was a member of the armed forces of the United States and
17 (i) received an honorable discharge or was released therefrom under
18 honorable conditions, or (ii) has a qualifying condition, as defined in
19 section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge
20 other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (iii) is a
21 discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans'
22 services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or
23 dishonorable from such service, or (iv) was a member of the National
24 Guard or military reserves who served at least twenty years, shall, upon
25 his or her request and submission of proof as set forth herein, contain
26 a distinguishing mark, in such form as the commissioner shall determine,
27 indicating that he or she is a veteran. Such proof shall consist of a
28 certificate of release or discharge from active duty including but not
29 limited to a DD Form 214, or in the case of a National Guard member an
30 NGB22 Form indicating twenty years of service, or in the case of a mili-
31 tary reservist a DD Form 256 and a Notification of Eligibility for
32 Retired Pay letter, or other proof satisfactory to the commissioner. The
33 commissioner shall not require fees for the issuance of such identifica-
34 tion cards or renewals thereof to persons under twenty-one years of age
35 which are different from the fees required for the issuance of identifi-
36 cation cards or renewals thereof to persons twenty-one years of age or
37 over, nor fees to persons requesting a veteran distinguishing mark which
38 are different from fees that would otherwise be required. Provided,
39 however, that notwithstanding the provisions of section four hundred
40 ninety-one of this article, the commissioner shall not require any fees
41 for the duplication or amendment of an identification card prior to its
42 renewal if such duplication or amendment was solely for the purpose of
43 adding a veteran distinguishing mark to such identification card.

44 § 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
45 have become a law; provided that if part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of
46 2022 shall not yet have taken effect on or before such effective date
47 then this act shall take effect on the same date that such part, takes
48 effect.