

# STATE OF NEW YORK

3120

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 23, 2025

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 their request and submission of proof as set forth herein, contain a  
15 distinguishing mark, in such form as the commissioner shall determine,  
16 indicating that [~~he or she~~] such applicant is a veteran. Such proof  
17 shall consist of a certificate of release or discharge from active duty  
18 including but not limited to a DD Form 214, or in the case of a National  
19 Guard member an NGB22 Form indicating twenty years of service, or in the  
20 case of a military reservist a DD Form 256 and a Notification of Eligi-  
21 bility for Retired Pay letter, or other proof satisfactory to the  
22 commissioner. The commissioner shall not require fees for the issuance  
23 of such licenses or renewals thereof to persons requesting a veteran  
24 distinguishing mark which are different from fees otherwise required;  
25 provided, however, that notwithstanding the provisions of this section,

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

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

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

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

46 § 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
47 have become a law.