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:

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

(a-1) Every license or renewal thereof issued to an applicant who was a member of the armed forces of the United States and who (i) received an honorable discharge or was released therefrom under honorable conditions, or (ii) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (iii) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, **or (iv) was a member of the National Guard or military reserves who served at least twenty years,** shall, upon [~~his or her~~] **their** request and submission of proof as set forth herein, contain a distinguishing mark, in such form as the commissioner shall determine, indicating that [~~he or she~~] **such applicant** is a veteran. Such proof shall consist of a certificate of release or discharge from active duty including but not limited to a DD Form 214**, or in the case of a National Guard member an NGB22 Form indicating twenty years of service, or in the case of a military reservist a DD Form 256 and a Notification of Eligibility for Retired Pay letter,** or other proof satisfactory to the commissioner. The commissioner shall not require fees for the issuance of such licenses or renewals thereof to persons requesting a veteran distinguishing mark which are different from fees otherwise required; 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.

LBD06966-01-5

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

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

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

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