



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 252

January Session, 2025

Senate Bill No. 1150

Senate, March 26, 2025

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through SEN. HONIG of the 8th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT PROVIDING FOR NO-COST DRIVER'S LICENSE AND
IDENTITY CARD RENEWALS FOR VETERANS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-41 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) (1) An original motor vehicle operator's license shall expire within
4 a period not exceeding seven years following the date of the operator's
5 next birthday. The fee for such license shall be eighty-four dollars. Upon
6 renewal of a license, the commissioner may issue a license for a period
7 to be determined by the commissioner, provided such period does not
8 exceed eight years. The fee for the renewal of a license that expires eight
9 years from the date of issuance shall be ninety-six dollars. The
10 commissioner shall charge a prorated amount of such fee for a license
11 that expires less than eight years from the date of issuance.

12 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
13 subsection, upon application at any time to renew a motor vehicle

14 operator's license of any person whose current license contains such
15 person's status as a veteran in accordance with subsection (e) of section
16 14-36h, the commissioner shall waive the fee to renew such license. For
17 any such renewal application made earlier than six months prior to the
18 date on which such license expires, the commissioner shall issue to such
19 person a voucher entitling such person to renewal of such person's
20 license, free of charge, during such six-month period.

21 (b) The commissioner may authorize a contractor, including, but not
22 limited to, an automobile club or association licensed in accordance with
23 the provisions of section 14-67 on or before July 1, 2007, or any
24 municipality, to issue duplicate licenses and identity cards pursuant to
25 section 14-50a, renew licenses, renew identity cards issued pursuant to
26 section 1-1h, as amended by this act, and conduct registration
27 transactions. The commissioner may authorize such contractors and
28 municipalities to charge a convenience fee, which shall not exceed eight
29 dollars, to each applicant for a license or identity card renewal or
30 duplication, or for a registration transaction.

31 (c) Any previously licensed operator who fails to renew a motor
32 vehicle operator's license in accordance with subsection (a) of this
33 section shall be charged a late fee of twenty-five dollars upon renewal
34 of such operator's license.

35 (d) The commissioner may, at least fifteen days before the date on
36 which each motor vehicle operator's license or identity card expires,
37 notify the holder of such license or identity card of the expiration date,
38 in a manner determined by the commissioner. The commissioner shall
39 not provide such notification by mail to any such licensee or identity
40 card holder if the United States Postal Service has determined that mail
41 is undeliverable to the address for such person that is documented in
42 the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Any previously
43 licensed operator who operates a motor vehicle within sixty days after
44 the expiration date of the operator's license without obtaining a renewal
45 of the license shall be fined in accordance with the amount designated
46 for the infraction of failure to renew a motor vehicle operator's license.

47 Any operator so charged shall not be prosecuted under section 14-36 for
48 the same act constituting a violation under this section but section 14-36
49 shall apply after the sixty-day period.

50 (e) On and after January 1, 2013, the commissioner may extend the
51 expiration date of an operator's license or identity card for a period of
52 six months when such licensee or identity card holder presents
53 documentation satisfactory to the commissioner that such person was
54 out of the state during the renewal period for such license or identity
55 card, or when the commissioner requires additional time to determine
56 whether such person qualifies for a renewal. The fee for such extension
57 shall be the same as that for a duplicate license under section 14-50a and
58 no part of such fee shall be subject to refund. The commissioner shall
59 not grant more than one extension to any such person pursuant to this
60 subsection.

61 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1-3a, if the expiration
62 date of any motor vehicle operator's license or any public passenger
63 endorsement falls on any day when the offices of the commissioner are
64 closed for business or are open for less than a full business day, the
65 license or permit shall be deemed valid until midnight of the next day
66 on which the offices of the commissioner are open for a full day of
67 business.

68 (g) The commissioner shall develop, and thereafter revise as needed,
69 a video presentation concerning current state laws that impact
70 motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists and ways to practice safe driving
71 behaviors and reduce transportation-related fatalities and severe
72 injuries. In developing such video presentation, the commissioner may
73 use materials and one or more video presentations developed by a
74 governmental entity, independent contractor or any other party. Upon
75 every other renewal of a motor vehicle operator's license, the
76 commissioner shall require the licensee to watch such video
77 presentation prior to issuing such license.

78 Sec. 2. Section 1-1h of the general statutes is repealed and the
79 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

80 (a) Any person who does not possess a valid motor vehicle operator's
81 license may apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles for an identity
82 card. The application for an identity card shall be accompanied by the
83 birth certificate of the applicant or a certificate of identification of the
84 applicant issued and authorized for such use by the Department of
85 Correction and a fee of twenty-eight dollars. Such application shall
86 include: (1) The applicant's name; (2) the applicant's address; (3)
87 whether the address is permanent or temporary; (4) the applicant's date
88 of birth; (5) notice to the applicant that false statements on such
89 application are punishable under section 53a-157b; and (6) such other
90 pertinent information as the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles deems
91 necessary. The applicant shall sign the application in the presence of an
92 official of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The commissioner may
93 waive the fee for any applicant (A) who has voluntarily surrendered
94 such applicant's motor vehicle operator's license, (B) whose license has
95 been refused by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision (4) of
96 subsection (e) of section 14-36, (C) who is both a veteran, as defined in
97 subsection (a) of section 27-103, and blind, as defined in subsection (a)
98 of section 1-1f, or (D) who is a resident of a homeless shelter or other
99 facility for homeless persons or a certified homeless youth or certified
100 homeless young adult. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in
101 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish the procedure
102 and qualifications for the issuance of an identity card to any such
103 homeless applicant. For the purposes of this subsection, "certified
104 homeless youth" and "certified homeless young adult" have the same
105 meanings as provided in section 7-36.

106 (b) (1) An identity card shall indicate its date of expiration, contain a
107 picture of the applicant and specify the applicant's height, sex and eye
108 color.

109 (2) (A) An original identity card shall expire within a period not
110 exceeding seven years following the date of the applicant's next
111 birthday. Any person who holds an identity card may be notified by the
112 commissioner before its expiration and may renew such card in such
113 manner as the commissioner shall prescribe. Upon renewal of an

114 identity card, the commissioner may issue an identity card for a period
115 to be determined by the commissioner, provided such period does not
116 exceed eight years. The fee for the renewal of an identity card that
117 expires eight years from the date of issuance shall be thirty-two dollars.
118 The commissioner shall charge a prorated amount of such fee for an
119 identity card that expires less than eight years from the date of issuance.
120 The commissioner shall not provide notification by mail to the holder of
121 an identity card if the United States Postal Service has determined that
122 mail is undeliverable to such person at the address for such person that
123 is in the records of the department.

124 (B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this
125 subdivision, upon application at any time to renew an identity card of
126 any person whose current identity card contains such person's status as
127 a veteran in accordance with subsection (e) of section 14-36h, the
128 commissioner shall waive the fee to renew such identity card. For any
129 such renewal application made earlier than six months prior to the date
130 on which such identity card expires, the commissioner shall issue to
131 such person a voucher entitling such person to renewal of such person's
132 identity card, free of charge, during such six-month period.

133 (c) A distinctive identity card shall be issued to any applicant less
134 than twenty-one years of age. The identity card shall contain a statement
135 that it is issued subject to the same verification of the applicant's identity
136 as required for the issuance of a motor vehicle operator's license. The
137 card may thereafter be exhibited to establish the age and identity of the
138 person to whom it was issued.

139 (d) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the
140 Liquor Control Commission, shall adopt regulations in accordance with
141 the provisions of chapter 54 to carry out the purposes of this section and
142 section 30-86.

143 (e) Any person who misrepresents his or her age or practices any
144 other deceit in the procurement of an identity card, or uses or exhibits
145 an identity card belonging to any other person, shall be guilty of a class
146 D misdemeanor and shall have such identity card revoked by the

147 commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	14-41
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	1-1h

VA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Motor Vehicle Dept.	TF - Revenue Loss	Approximately 180,000	Approximately 180,000

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in annualized revenue loss of approximately \$180,000 to the Special Transportation Fund by waiving the renewal fees for driver's licenses or ID cards for veterans that have the veteran designation on their current license or ID card. There are approximately 15,000 licenses/IDs currently with a veteran designation.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of veterans opting for the veteran designation on their licenses or ID cards. The provisions of the bill may encourage more veterans to opt for this designation which could increase the revenue loss in the out years (there are approximately 152,000 veterans in Connecticut compared to only 15,000 with the designation).

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1150*****AN ACT PROVIDING FOR NO-COST DRIVER'S LICENSE AND IDENTITY CARD RENEWALS FOR VETERANS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner to waive the driver's license or identity card renewal fee for veterans with the veteran designation on their current driver's license or current identity card.

The bill also requires the commissioner to issue a voucher to veterans who apply for their renewals more than six months prior to their licenses or cards expiring. This voucher would waive the fee during the six-month period.

By law, the fee for a renewed license is \$96 and \$32 for a renewed identity card if they are valid for eight years, but the fees are prorated if the commissioner issues renewed licenses and cards for shorter periods of time.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

BACKGROUND***Definition of a Veteran***

A "veteran" is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions, or released with an other than honorable (OTH) discharge based on a qualifying condition, from active service in the armed forces (the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Air Force, and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service) (CGS § 27-103).

A qualifying condition is a (1) post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury diagnosis by a licensed health care professional at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facility; (2) military sexual trauma disclosed to such a health care professional; or (3) determination by the Qualifying Review Board that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the OTH discharge (CGS § 27-103).

Veterans Designation

Veterans may submit a request to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to have their status as a veteran on their driver's license or identity card. The DVA must, within 30 days after receipt of a request, verify whether the individual is a veteran and, if verified, notify the DMV commissioner of the request and verification.

The DMV commissioner must indicate the individual's status as a veteran on any driver's license or identity card issued to that person during the original issuance or renewal of a driver's license or identity card or at issuance of a duplicate driver's license or identity card.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2025)