

STATE OF KANSAS



MARIO GOICO  
REPRESENTATIVE, 94TH DISTRICT  
SEDGWICK COUNTY  
1254 N. PINE GROVE CT.  
WICHITA, KS 67212  
316-721-3682

STATE CAPITOL—276-W  
TOPEKA, KS 66612  
785-296-7663

TOLL FREE (DURING SESSION) 1-800-432-3924

FAX: 785-368-6365

E-MAIL: mario.goico@house.ks.gov

TOPEKA

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HOMELAND SECURITY  
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SECURITY

February 19, 2013

Honorable Chairman Mike Peterson  
and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

### SB 136

#### Veterans Designation on Drivers Licenses or State ID Cards

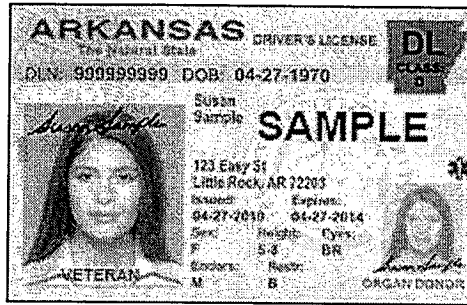
It can be difficult for military veterans to prove they served in the military. The only federally issued identification are: **Military ID cards**, military retiree ID cards, and **Veterans Identification Card** issued by the VA (only for eligible veterans). Veterans who are ineligible for one of these ID cards are often left without an official ID card that proves they served in the military.

Some veterans get around this by carrying around a copy of their **DD form 214**, but this presents a several issues: it is not a photo ID, so many places won't accept it, it is bulky and difficult to carry in one's wallet, and it has the veteran's Social Security number on it, which presents an identity theft risk if it is stolen.

More and more service members are returning home from overseas, and they need a more efficient way to prove eligibility for benefits that doesn't involve lugging around discharge papers,

An easy solution is to add the word "Veteran" or "Combat Veteran" to the driver's license.

These driver licenses can often be used for **military and veterans discounts**, or to prove you served in the military. However, these ID cards are not official military ID cards.



See "Veteran" status at bottom of photo.

Another important reason to include the veteran status is that veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), have been known to scuffle with law enforcement after they return home. If police at the scene realize they're dealing with a veteran, one who may have PTSD, it could help them better handle the situation.

These state programs now make it easier for veterans to receive access to government benefits, discounts at restaurants and retailers, to which they are entitled.

The following are the only states that did not offer this designation in 2012.

• <b>Alabama</b> – None
• <b>Hawaii</b> – None
• <b>Idaho</b> – None
• <b>Kansas</b> – None
• <b>Montana</b> – None
• <b>Nebraska</b> – None
• <b>New Mexico</b> – None
• <b>Vermont</b> – None
• <b>Washington D.C.</b> – None
• <b>Wyoming</b> – None

**Requirements in most states:**

**For current service members and retirees:**

- A current DD Form 2A
- Or surrender of a Driver's license from a state that already offers this service
- A DS 516 issued by the VA office

**For veterans that have previously served, but have not retired:**

- An honorably or general under honorable conditions discharge
- A copy of your DD Form 214
- DD Form 215, or other discharge paperwork

**Additional state paperwork:**


- Birth certificate,
- Social security card,
- Passport or some other form of identification).

**Process:**

When you go to get your driver's license, the clerk will ask you if you are veteran and if you would like a veteran designation, on a voluntary (as desired by those Service Members/Retirees/Veterans), basis.

Those Veterans desiring to be so identified would be required to produce proof at the time of issuance, or renewal of their Driver's License

Respectfully,



Representative Mario Goico

## What Other States are doing:

State	Driver License Designation Status	Description	Official Information
Alabama	None, no legislation pending		
Alaska	Pending legislation		
Arizona	Passed legislation, awaiting implementation, no date set.		
Arkansas	Available	Issued to Arkansas residents who request the veterans designation and submit a United States Department of Defense discharge document otherwise known as a DD Form 214 that shows a discharge status of ?honorable? or ?general under honorable conditions.?	<u>Arkansas DMV Veterans' Designation</u>
California	Pending legislation		
Colorado	Available	Military service members and veterans may request to include a military identifier on their Colorado driver's license and ID card. Either a valid military identification card (common access card) or a DD214 will be required.	<u>Military Identifier on Colorado Driver's License</u>
Connecticut	Available	At least 30 days prior to visiting a DMV or AAA office, veterans must submit to the state Department of Veteran's Affairs a completed	<u>Connecticut Driver's License Veterans Designation</u>

State	Driver License Designation Status	Description	Official Information
		<p>application and proof of honorable discharge, such as a DD-214. The Department of Veterans Affairs will verify the veteran's military status and electronically notify DMV of the request prior to the driver's license or ID card being issued.</p>	
Delaware	Available	<p>This card is available to any Delaware veteran that served in the U.S. military and was honorably discharged. The cards are free of charge. To obtain the card, veterans must have a valid Delaware driver license or ID card and provide proof of military service.</p>	<p><u>Veteran Identification (ID) Cards</u></p>
Florida	Available	<p>Veterans who live in Florida can add a Veteran designation to their Florida driver license (DL) or identification card (ID card) for a one-time fee. The Veteran designation is simply a blue "V" on the bottom right corner of the card. You will need to present your DD-214 or DD-215 which shows you have received an honorable discharge from active duty.</p>	<p><u>Veterans Designation on FL Driver License</u></p>
Georgia	Available	<p>Applicant must have honorable active duty service in U.S. Armed Forces, or 20 years of service in National Guard. Original Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516) obtained from the Georgia Department of Veterans Services upon presentation of Armed Forces</p>	<p><u>Veteran Driver's License</u></p>

State	Driver License Designation Status	Description	Official Information
		Separation Papers (DD-214).	
Hawaii	Pending legislation		<u>Veteran Driver's License</u>
Idaho	Passed legislation, awaiting implementation, no date set.		<u>Veteran Driver's License</u>
Illinois	Available July 1, 2015	This new law directs the Illinois Secretary of State's Office beginning July 1, 2015 to add a unique distinction on veteran driver's licenses and identification cards.	<u>Unique distinction on veteran driver's licenses</u>
Indiana	Available	To purchase a new veteran's license plate or driver's license for the first time, a discharged veteran must present a DD214 (discharge summary) or other military documents issued by the Department of Defense verifying a veteran's honorable discharge from the armed forces. Active duty personnel must present a military identification card and a current leave and earnings statement to purchase a license plate.	<u>Veterans designation on driver's license</u>
Iowa	Available	Iowans must provide proof of veteran status when applying for or renewing their license or non-operator ID	<u>Iowa veterans driver's license</u>
Kansas	None, no legislation pending		
Kentucky	Available	The word "VETERAN" will be printed	<u>Veteran</u>

State	Driver License Designation Status	Description	Official Information
		vertically and in capital letters along the right border of the license holders photo. To obtain a license with the designation, a veteran must present a DD214. The Department of Defense form that verifies service at the office of the local circuit court clerk, where driver's licenses are issued.	<u>Designation on Driver's License</u>
Louisiana	Available	The State of Louisiana is honoring Veterans by placing the "Veteran" designation on Louisiana driver's licenses and identification cards.	<u>Special Veterans Driver's License Designation</u>
Maine	Available	The designation features a Field of Stars backdrop for the identification photo and is currently available to eligible Maine veterans and military service members at all Bureau of Motor Vehicle locations.	<u>Driver's Licenses/IDs with Military Service Designation</u>
Maryland	Available	A "Veteran" status will be designated on Maryland Driver's licenses.	<u>"Veteran" status on drivers licenses</u>
Massachusetts	Available	Massachusetts veterans have the option to have the word "Veteran" appear on their driver's license or ID card.	<u>Veterans driver's license or ID card</u>
Michigan	Passed legislation, awaiting implementation, no date set.		Veterans driver's license or ID card
Minnesota	Available	A veteran may request the	<u>Designation of</u>

State	Driver License Designation Status	Description	Official Information
		<p>designation of veteran on his or her Minnesota Driver's License &amp; ID card. In order to obtain the designation, the applicant must request the designation; pay the required license or identification card fee; and provide a certified copy of discharge papers.</p>	<p><u>veteran on drivers license</u></p>
Mississippi	Available	<p>There is specific verifying documentation a veteran will have to obtain from officials from the Mississippi Veterans' Affairs Board before they go to their local driver's license station to obtain the veteran's driver's license. The process to get the paperwork is simple, but the certification from the Veteran's Affairs Board must be presented before the new veteran's license can be obtained.</p>	<p><u>Mississippi Veterans Driver's License</u></p>
Missouri	Available	<p>Any veteran of the United States military may choose to obtain the "VETERAN" designation on a Missouri driver or nondriver license. Persons requesting the "VETERAN" designation must submit -- at the time of initial request for the driver or nondriver license with the new designation -- a United States Department of Defense discharge document (otherwise known as a</p>	<p><u>VETERAN designation on a Missouri driver or nondriver license</u></p>



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		DD214) which indicates a discharge status of "honorable", "general", "under honorable conditions", or "general under honorable conditions."	
Montana	None, no legislation pending		
Nebraska	None, no legislation pending		
Nevada	Pending legislation introduction in 2013		<u>Nevada Veterans Driver's License</u>
New Hampshire	Passed legislation, DMV has until July 2014 to implement. No early implementation currently set.		<u>Nevada Veterans Driver's License</u>
New Jersey	Pending State legislation, available in some counties		
New Mexico	Available	Available to any honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces. Veterans will need only to provide their DD Form 214 Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty form, Military Retiree, VA Medical ID or National Guard ID card when applying for the designation. There will be no additional cost added to the normal \$18 driver's license renewal or replacement fee. Veterans	<u>Veterans Designation Driver's License</u>

State	Driver License Designation Status	Description	Official Information
		currently holding a valid driver's license will have to pay the normal replacement fee if they would like this new veteran's designation driver's license.	
New York	Available October 2013, available in some counties	Legislation was signed into law that allows the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to place a distinguishing mark on a driver's license, or non-driver ID, to indicate its holder is a veteran.	<u>New York driver's license designation</u>
North Carolina	Available	A military designation for driver's licenses and identification cards that may, upon request, be granted to North Carolina residents who are honorably discharged from military service in the United States Armed Forces. An applicant requesting this designation must produce a Form DD-214 showing the applicant has been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.	<u>North Carolina veterans status on drivers license</u>
North Dakota	Available	Military veterans will have the option to have a special indicator placed on their driver's license. Upon request and with adequate documentation, a letter "V" indicator can be placed on the face of veterans? Driver's licenses at no additional cost. Adequate veteran or military service documentation for this indicator may	<u>Veteran indicator on driver's license</u>

State	Driver License Designation Status	Description	Official Information
		be obtained through the Department of Veterans Affairs.	
Ohio	Available	The stamp, placed on the lower right of the license or ID, provides veterans with recognition of their military service. The stamp is provided at no additional cost when requested at the time a license or ID is renewed, but normal <b>driver's</b> license fees still apply.	<u>Armed Forces stamp on driver's license</u>
Oklahoma	Available	Veterans who choose to have the "Veteran" status on their card will have to show proof of military service by providing their DD-214, 215, WWII discharge document or a US Department of Veterans Affairs photo ID card when renewing or obtaining their identification card or driver license.	<u>Veteran logo on Oklahoma driver license or state identification cards</u>
Oregon	Available	DMV will add a designation on your driver license, instruction permit or ID card to indicate you are a veteran when you request the designation and meet the qualifications.	<u>Designation on Oregon driver license</u>
Pennsylvania	Passed legislation, DMV has until approximately April 2015 to implement. No early implementation currently set.		Designation on Oregon driver license

State	Driver License Designation Status	Description	Official Information
Puerto Rico	Available		
Rhode Island	Available	<p>Veteran's must present a DD 214 or other forms that show an honorable discharge to qualify for the veteran license or ID designation even if you already have veteran license plates. There is no cost.</p>	<p><u>Veteran designation on a license or ID</u></p>
South Carolina	Available	<p>The VETERAN designation applies only to individuals who served honorably as members of the United States Armed Forces. To apply, veterans must present their Form DD214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), which indicates an honorable discharge. No other proof of service will be accepted. Military dependents, spouses or civilian employees on military bases are not eligible.</p>	<p><u>VETERAN designation on driver licenses, identification cards</u></p>
South Dakota	Available	<p>Veterans who have been honorably discharged from the military have the option of adding the word "Veteran" to the front of their South Dakota driver license or identification card. Veterans who wish to add the designation to their driver license or non-driver ID card may visit any South Dakota driver license office.</p>	<p><u>Veteran Designation on Driver License or ID Card</u></p>
Tennessee	Available	<p>The word "veteran" will be printed vertically and in capital letters along</p>	<p><u>Veterans Designation on</u></p>

State	Driver License Designation Status	Description	Official Information
		the right border of the photo. To obtain the designation, a veteran has to provide the clerk's office with the Defense Department form that verifies service, DD214.	<u>State IDs</u>
Texas	Available	DPS offers a VETERAN designation printed on the face of driver licenses for qualifying veterans. Veterans must visit a driver license office and present their DD-214, DD-215, NGB-22, or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs disability letter.	<u>Veteran Designation for Driver Licenses</u>
Utah	Available	A Utah driver license or any applicant who is applying for a Utah ID card has the option of adding a VETERAN indicator to their certificate upon providing acceptable proof of honorable discharge from the U.S. Military. (DD214 or for WWII Veterans, a Record/Notice of Separation is required.)	<u>Veteran's Identification of Driver License or ID Card</u>
Vermont	None, no legislation pending		
Virginia	Available (separate ID card)	The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) issues veteran ID cards for proof of veteran status to receive discounts from retailers and restaurants	<u>Virginia Veterans Identification Card</u>
Washington	Pending legislation, passed House.		<u>"Veteran" Designation on</u>

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			<u>Driver's Licenses</u>
Washington D.C.	None, no legislation pending		
West Virginia	Available	Veterans can apply for the driver's license designation by bringing their federally required REAL ID documents as well as their DD214, or military identification card, or Division of Motor Vehicles' vehicle registration card reflecting their current military license plate, to any of the 23 regional DMV offices.	<u>"Veteran" Designation on Driver's Licenses</u>
Wisconsin	Pending legislation		
Wyoming	None, no legislation pending		

Source: Military Benefits – A non-government, privately sponsored website [militarybenefits.info](http://militarybenefits.info)