

**SENATE BILL 136 TESTIMONY**  
**Committee on Transportation**  
**By Jeff Bond**  
**The American Legion Department of Kansas**  
**Tuesday, February 19, 2013**

Thank you for granting me the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of Senate Bill 136. My name is Jeff Bond and I am the Finance Officer for The Kansas American Legion.

Kansas is one of only 15 states that does not permit veterans discharged under honorable conditions from the United States Armed Forces to proclaim their veteran status on their principle piece of identification. The American Legion supports the concept of permitting veterans to identify themselves as someone who has taken an oath to defend our nation against all enemies foreign and domestic on drivers licenses and identification cards issued by the State of Kansas.

However we would respectfully ask that line 38 on page two of Senate Bill 136 be amended to replace the words "*in the hologram security feature displayed on the back side*" with the words "on the front". We also ask that lines seven and eight on page 5 of SB 136 be similarly amended.

Our reason for requesting these amendments is twofold: Placing a veterans status inside a hologram on the back side of their driver's license seems to be a bit of an insult. Less than ten percent of the United States population serves in our Armed Forces and we believe an honorably discharged veteran should be able to proclaim his special status on the front, not the back of their license or identification card. Our request is also based on the cost to the State of Kansas as proposed by Senate Bill 136; we feel the word "Veteran" placed on the front of a license or identification card, above the veteran's name will add little or no cost to produce than today's cost.

Most of us know the reason for allowing veterans to identify themselves on their driver's license or state issued identification card is a means for honorably discharged veterans to obtain discounts from various retailers. While a law enforcement officer usually asks a person to remove their license or identification card from their wallet thus providing full front and back access, it seems inconvenient and unnecessary for a veteran to do so in order to receive a well deserved discount.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to appear before you today. The American Legion asks that you consider our suggested amendments and to support passage of a bill allowing veterans to have their veteran status included on their chief means of identification.

