

Chapter 51

(House Bill 358)

AN ACT concerning

Drivers' Licenses and Identification Cards – Notation of Veteran Status

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs, on request, to provide a veteran with a document certifying veteran status; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to ensure that the driver's license or identification card of an applicant who presents ~~a certain certification of~~ certain documentation certifying veteran status includes a notation indicating that the applicant is a veteran; requiring an application for a driver's license or an identification card to allow an applicant to indicate that the applicant is a veteran and consents to being contacted by ~~the Department~~ certain Executive Branch agencies under certain circumstances for certain purposes; requiring the Administration to electronically transmit certain information to ~~the Department~~ certain Executive Branch agencies under certain circumstances; authorizing the Administration to adopt regulations to carry out certain provisions of this Act; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to drivers' licenses and identification cards of veterans.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Government
Section 9–901(a), (b), and (d)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Government
Section 9–905
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Transportation
Section 12–302
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – State Government

9–901.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Department” means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in §§ 9–906 and 9–907 of this subtitle, “veteran” means an individual who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, other than for training, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

9–905.

The Department shall:

(1) help veterans and their dependents to receive promptly and regularly all of the benefits to which veterans or dependents are entitled under federal law; [and]

(2) help veterans and their dependents in:

(i) preparing, in proper form, claims for benefits;

(ii) presenting the claims to the appropriate governmental unit;

(iii) trying to prevent and to relieve congestion in the processing of the claims; and

(iv) obtaining and expediting action on the claims; AND

(3) ON REQUEST, PROVIDE A VETERAN WITH A DOCUMENT CERTIFYING VETERAN STATUS.

Article – Transportation

12–302.

(A) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ENSURE THAT THE DRIVER’S LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD OF AN APPLICANT WHO PRESENTS A CERTIFICATION OF VETERAN STATUS OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9–905 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, A DD FORM 214, OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION ACCEPTABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION CERTIFYING VETERAN STATUS, INCLUDES A NOTATION INDICATING THAT THE APPLICANT IS A VETERAN.

(B) (1) AN APPLICATION FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR AN IDENTIFICATION CARD SHALL ALLOW AN APPLICANT TO INDICATE THAT THE APPLICANT IS A VETERAN AND CONSENTS TO BEING CONTACTED BY ~~THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS~~ APPROPRIATE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES REGARDING THE APPLICANT'S ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE OR FEDERAL VETERANS' BENEFITS.

(2) ~~THE~~ IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 10-616 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE AND ANY OTHER APPLICABLE LAW, AND ON REQUEST BY AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCY, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMIT TO THE ~~DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS~~ EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCY APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ABOUT EACH APPLICANT WHO CONSENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(C) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October 1, 2012~~ January 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, April 10, 2012.