

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 48 (Senators Simonaire and Jackson)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Department of General Services - Identification Cards - Veteran Status Notation

This bill authorizes the Department of General Services (DGS) to include a notation on an “identification card” indicating the holder is a veteran if the individual presents specified documentation to DGS. DGS may limit the notation to specific categories of identification card holders. If DGS provides such an option, DGS must include on the application an option for the applicant to (1) indicate that the applicant is a veteran and (2) consent to being contacted by appropriate Executive Branch agencies regarding the individual’s eligibility for State or federal veterans’ benefits. Subject to specified provisions of the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA) and on request by an Executive Branch agency, DGS must transmit to the agency appropriate information about each identification card holder who has given consent. DGS may adopt regulations to carry out the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DGS can create the veteran status notation on identification cards and handle any notification duties required by the bill with existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to have a material effect on local governmental operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Identification card” means a security card issued by DGS to a State employee or other individual authorized by the Secretary of General Services, including a contractor, regulated lobbyist, media personnel, local government official, or volunteer.

Current Law:

State of Maryland Security Cards

By regulation, the Secretary of General Services must issue a State of Maryland employee security card to each State employee, but the Secretary may delegate that responsibility to the Maryland Capitol Police (MCP). Security cards may be issued to other individuals, including but not limited to contractors, lobbyists, media personnel, local government officials, or volunteers. The Secretary of General Services may authorize, and MCP must conduct, a security clearance investigation prior to the issuance of a security card to an individual other than a State employee.

Generally, in order to be issued a security card, an individual must complete and submit a security card application in a form prescribed by the Secretary of General Services. The fees established for security cards are \$50 for lobbyists and \$50 for contractors. Replacement fees for security cards are \$50 for the first loss, \$100 for the second loss, and \$250 for each successive loss (subject to authorization from DGS). The Secretary of General Services may not charge a fee to (1) replace a damaged security card, if the damage was unintentional and is surrendered or (2) to issue a security card with updated personal or employment information.

Maryland Public Information Act

PIA establishes that all persons are entitled to have access to information about the affairs of government and the official acts of public officials and employees. Each governmental unit that maintains public records must identify a representative whom a member of the public may contact to request a public record.

Department of Veterans and Military Families

The Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMMF) delivers services and programs to assist Maryland veterans, their families, and survivors in obtaining State, federal, and local benefits provided by law in recognition for their service. DVMMF assures the quality maintenance of veterans' cemeteries and memorials to honor Maryland veterans. DVMMF also manages Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, an assisted living and skilled nursing facility for veterans and their eligible spouses who are unable to care for themselves due to disability, advancing age, or who require nursing home care. Additionally, DVMMF engages in public awareness and outreach to veterans, their families, and other stakeholders.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission; Department of General Services; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Veterans and Military Families; State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Maryland Insurance Administration; Military Department; State Retirement Agency; Department of Legislative Services

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