

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 167 (Senator Simonaire)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Department of Natural Resources - Licenses, Permits, Registrations, and Public Profiles - Notation of Veteran Status

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish a process to include a notation indicating veteran status on a license, permit, registration, or public profile.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DNR can implement the process authorized by the bill using existing budgeted resources. The bill is not anticipated to otherwise materially impact State operations or finances, as discussed below.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially impact local government operations or finances, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: If DNR establishes the process authorized by the bill, an application for a license, permit, or registration must allow the applicant to request that a notation of the applicant's veteran status be included on the license, permit, registration, or public profile. An applicant requesting a notation must indicate consent to (1) having a notation of veteran status on the applicant's license, permit, registration, or public profile and (2) being contacted by appropriate Executive Branch agencies about eligibility for State or federal veterans' benefits.

An applicant requesting notation of veteran status must submit (1) a certification of veteran status obtained from the Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF); (2) a federal certificate of release or discharge from active duty; or (3) any other

documentation certifying veteran status acceptable to DNR. If an applicant submits appropriate documentation and consents to contact, the department must include a notation of veteran status on the license, permit, registration, or public profile. On request from an Executive Branch agency, and in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act, DNR must electronically transmit appropriate information about the applicant. DNR may adopt regulations relevant to the bill.

Current Law: DNR is responsible for issuing numerous licenses, permits, and registrations, including for hunting, fishing, vessels, and off-road vehicles. DNR's MD Outdoors online licensing and registration system facilitates many transactions; individuals may also obtain various licenses/permits by visiting a DNR service center or various sports license agent locations throughout the State.

Chapters 247, 248, 249, and 250 of 2025 similarly authorized the Department of General Services, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Department of the Environment, and Maryland Department of Labor, respectively, to establish processes related to veteran status notations.

DVMF exists as a principal department of State government and is responsible for, among other duties, delivering services and programs to assist the State's veterans, their families, and survivors in obtaining State, federal, and local benefits provided by law in recognition for their service.

State and Local Fiscal Effect: Although the bill's provisions may facilitate additional veterans applying and being deemed eligible for certain benefits, any associated impact is not anticipated to materially affect State or local finances or operations.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Department of Veterans and Military Families; Department of Legislative Services

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caw/jkb

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