

Testimony: Veterans' Affairs Committee  
In Support of HB-5265  
February 25, 2010

To The Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

I wish to thank Rep. Graziani and Sen. Maynard for giving me the opportunity to testify.

I am Sergeant First Class John Bellville, a constituent in the service with the US Army, from the Town of Killingly. I have been on active duty for the past sixteen years. Through this time of service I have had to renew my state driver's license several times. One of these times was shortly after return from being stationed in Germany. Upon return to the United States I was unable to drive because my License was expired. I recently experienced a second time that without action upon my return to the U.S. from abroad I would not be able to drive. I preplanned this time by contacting the State Department of Motor Vehicles to try to solve my problem before it happened. I was informed that the soonest I could renew would be ninety days before it expired. With that being the case I found I was lucky that my deployment started just thirty days after that window opened. I would have been out of luck and in a greater bind had this not happened.

Being a Non-Commissioned Officer in the Armed Forces I have many duty's. One of these duties is to take care of my soldiers. I have to inspect their Drivers licenses and verify that they are not expired. During one of such inspections I came across a soldier from the state of California that had what looked like an expired license. After researching his state laws I found that so long as they have an Active Duty Military Identification Card there license will not expire. I was perplexed that one could take such care of their Statesmen serving their country. When I ran into my license expiring during my next deployment to Iraq I was curious why the state of Connecticut could not do the same. With the current laws it does not cost me to renew per say, But with the amount of postage, paperwork and personnel to process the actions it is paid for in the taxes of every individual from the state.

It is my proposal to eliminate some of these costs and give soldiers, Active Duty and those called upon for active duty a peace of mind. I ask that the State of Connecticut allow these Soldiers drivers licenses to remain Valid until completion of their Service to the Government of the United States. They have enough on their mind, staying alert, mission ready, battles focused, and keep themselves and their battle buddies safe than to worry about whether or not they can drive once they return home. The state can accomplish the tracking of who is serving through the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Police stops. Every soldier has to submit to the (IRS) their W-2 indicating they are employed by the Department of Defense. At police stops they have to surrender their Drivers license and their Active Military ID card. Every ID card has a date of expiration that has to be updated every four years. With these checks and balances I believe good enforcement of driving without a license will occur.

Thank you all for your time in allowing me to express my concerns and thoughts. I can only ask that you take my recommendations into great consideration and act in the best interest of your statesmen that are defending this great country.

Sincerely,  
John W. Bellville

