



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 211

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6001

House of Representatives, March 27, 2023

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through REP. NOLAN of the 39th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING AN INDICATION ON MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENSES AND IDENTITY CARDS FOR GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-36h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

3 (a) Each motor vehicle operator's license issued by the Commissioner
4 of Motor Vehicles in accordance with section 14-36 and each identity
5 card issued by said commissioner in accordance with section 1-1h shall
6 contain the following: (1) The person's full legal name; (2) the person's
7 date of birth; (3) the person's gender; (4) the person's height and eye
8 color; (5) the person's assigned operator's license or identity card
9 number; (6) the person's address of principal residence in this state; (7)
10 the person's signature; (8) the person's photograph or digital image;
11 [and] (9) if applicable, the person's status as a veteran, as provided in
12 subsections (e) and (f) of this section; and (10) if applicable, the person's

13 status as an immediate family member of a resident of this state who
14 was killed in action while performing active military duty with the
15 armed forces, as provided in subsection (g) of this section.

16 (b) If any person does not reside in any state, territory or possession
17 of the United States because such person is on active military duty with
18 the United States Armed Forces, and such person's home state of record
19 is Connecticut, as reflected in the records of the United States
20 Department of Defense, United States Department of Homeland
21 Security or any federal department under which the United States Coast
22 Guard operates, such person may obtain a Connecticut operator's
23 license or identity card, provided such person: (1) Does not have an
24 operator's license or identity card issued by another state, territory or
25 possession of the United States, or surrenders any such license or
26 identity card; (2) has a current APO or FPO mailing address; (3)
27 designates such person's home address as 60 State Street, Wethersfield,
28 CT 06161; and (4) meets all other requirements for obtaining an
29 operator's license or identity card in this state.

30 (c) The commissioner shall provide that each such license or identity
31 card document contains physical security features designed to prevent
32 tampering, counterfeiting or duplication of the document.

33 (d) Each such document shall also contain one or more machine-
34 readable technology feature or component, including, but not limited to,
35 a bar code or magnetic strip.

36 (e) Any person who is a veteran may submit a request to the
37 Department of Veterans Affairs to have [his or her] such person's status
38 as a veteran contained on [his or her] such person's motor vehicle
39 operator's license or identity card. Said department shall, not later than
40 thirty days after receipt of such request, verify whether such person is a
41 veteran and, if so, notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of such
42 request and verification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
43 indicate such person's status as a veteran on any motor vehicle
44 operator's license or identity card issued to such person upon original
45 issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle operator's license or identity card

46 or upon issuance of a duplicate motor vehicle operator's license or
47 identity card.

48 (f) (1) Any person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special
49 guerilla units, which units served in the United States secret war in the
50 Kingdom of Laos during the Vietnam War, may submit a request to the
51 Department of Veterans Affairs to be listed as a veteran, based on such
52 service, on [his or her] such person's motor vehicle operator's license or
53 identity card. Said department shall, not later than thirty days after
54 receipt of such request and the documents required under subdivision
55 (2) of this subsection, verify whether such person was such a member
56 and, if so, notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of such request
57 and verification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall indicate
58 such person's status as a veteran on any motor vehicle operator's license
59 or identity card issued to such person upon original issuance or renewal
60 of a motor vehicle operator's license or identity card or upon issuance of
61 a duplicate motor vehicle operator's license or identity card.

62 (2) Any such person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian
63 special guerilla units shall submit to the Department of Veterans Affairs,
64 in addition to the request under subdivision (1) of this subsection, (A)
65 an affidavit stating (i) when such person served, (ii) where such person
66 served, (iii) the unit in which such person served, and (iv) the capacity
67 in which such person served; (B) any available corroborating witness
68 affidavits; (C) any available official documentation of service; and (D)
69 any other documents supporting such person's affidavit.

70 (g) Any person who is an immediate family member of a resident of
71 this state who was killed in action while performing active military duty
72 with the armed forces may submit a request to the Department of
73 Veterans Affairs to have such person's status as such immediate family
74 member contained on such person's motor vehicle operator's license or
75 identity card. Said department shall, not later than thirty days after
76 receipt of such request, verify whether such person is such an immediate
77 family member and, if so, notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of
78 such request and verification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles

79 shall indicate such person's status as such an immediate family member
80 on any motor vehicle operator's license or identity card issued to such
81 person upon original issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle operator's
82 license or identity card or upon issuance of a duplicate motor vehicle
83 operator's license or identity card.

84 [(g)] (h) As used in this section: (1) "Full legal name" means the most
85 complete version of the name that appears on a person's certificate of
86 birth, official passport or other document or documents accepted by the
87 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to verify the person's identity, unless
88 the person presents a marriage license or certificate, a certificate of civil
89 union, a divorce decree or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction
90 pertaining to a permanent change of the person's name; [and] (2)
91 "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, or any
92 former member of the armed forces who is entitled to retirement pay
93 under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to time, or, but for
94 age, would be so entitled; (3) "armed forces" has the same meaning as
95 provided in section 27-103; and (4) "immediate family member" means
96 a spouse, mother, father, brother, sister, child, grandmother or
97 grandfather.

98 Sec. 2. Section 14-20c of the general statutes is repealed and the
99 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

100 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any
101 immediate family member, shall issue a special certificate of registration
102 and a set of number plates memorializing residents of this state who
103 were killed in action while performing active military duty with the
104 armed forces, as defined in section 27-103. Such registration and number
105 plates shall be available for any motor vehicle owned or leased for a
106 period of at least one year. Such number plates shall expire and be
107 renewed as provided in section 14-22. No fee shall be charged for such
108 plates. Such plates shall bear the words "Gold Star Family", and the
109 design of such plates shall be approved by a committee established by
110 the commissioner. For the purposes of this section, "immediate family
111 member" [includes] means a spouse, mother, father, brother, sister,

112 child, grandmother or grandfather of a resident of this state who was
 113 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed
 114 forces, as defined in section 27-103.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2023	14-36h
Sec. 2	October 1, 2023	14-20c

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), the reference to Subsec. (g) was deleted from Subdiv. (9) and Subdiv. (10) was added, for accuracy.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to include a Gold Star family member designation on licenses and ID cards upon request of, and following verification by, the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). This does not result in additional costs because the relevant interface between DMV and DVA is already established for comparable purposes (e.g., veterans status).

The Out Years

None

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6001

AN ACT CONCERNING AN INDICATION ON MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENSES AND IDENTITY CARDS FOR GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBERS.

SUMMARY

This bill allows an immediate family member of a state resident who was killed while on active duty (i.e., a Gold Star family member) to request that the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) display this relationship status on his or her driver's license or identification card.

The bill requires DVA to verify the request, and, within 30 days after receiving it, notify the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner of the requestor's eligibility. The DMV commissioner must include the designation on the eligible requestor's initial, renewed, or duplicate driver's license or identification card.

Under the bill an "immediate family member" is a spouse, mother, father, brother, sister, child, grandmother, or grandfather.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/07/2023)