



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Committee Bill No. 6001

LCO No. 4801



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

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 Section 14-36h of the general statutes is repealed and the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; and
11 (9) if applicable, the person's status as a veteran, as provided in
12 subsections (e) [and (f)] to (g), inclusive, of this section.

13 (b) If any person does not reside in any state, territory or possession
14 of the United States because such person is on active military duty with

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

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

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

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

45 (f) (1) Any person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special
46 guerilla units, which units served in the United States secret war in the

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

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

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

80 operator's license or identity card.

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

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

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

To provide an indication on motor vehicle operator's licenses and identity cards for gold star family members.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. DIGIOVANCARLO, 74th Dist.; REP. FISHBEIN, 90th Dist.
REP. NOLAN, 39th Dist.

H.B. 6001