



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

***Raised Bill No. 6875***

LCO No. 5508



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF A STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD OR MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENSE TO A PERSON BEING DISCHARGED FROM A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 18-81ff of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) The Commissioners of Correction and Motor Vehicles shall [,  
4 within available appropriations,] ensure that [an inmate] a person who  
5 is incarcerated possesses a state identification card issued pursuant to  
6 section 1-1h or a motor vehicle operator's license issued pursuant to  
7 chapter 246 at the time such [inmate] person is released from a  
8 correctional facility after serving any part of a term of imprisonment for  
9 a misdemeanor or felony conviction, [provided any such inmate (1)  
10 requests and qualifies for such identification card or license, and (2)  
11 pays any fee associated with obtaining such identification card or  
12 license.] unless such person indicates, in writing, on a form prescribed  
13 by the Commissioner of Correction, that such person does not wish to  
14 obtain such card or license.

15     (b) In order to effectuate the provisions of subsection (a) of this  
16 section, at the time a person is committed to the care and custody of the  
17 Department of Correction, the Commissioner of Correction, in  
18 consultation and collaboration with the Commissioner of Motor  
19 Vehicles, shall ascertain (1) whether the person has been issued a current  
20 state identification card issued pursuant to section 1-1h or a motor  
21 vehicle operator's license issued pursuant to chapter 246, and (2) if such  
22 card or license has been issued the date on which such card or license  
23 expires.

24     (c) For any person who is incarcerated who wishes to obtain an initial  
25 state identification card issued pursuant to section 1-1h or a motor  
26 vehicle operator's license issued pursuant to chapter 246, or renew such  
27 card or license, or obtain a duplicate card or license when the original  
28 card or license has been lost, the Commissioner of Correction, in  
29 consultation and collaboration with the Commissioner of Motor  
30 Vehicles, shall:

31     (1) (A) Not later than twenty-four months prior to the date on which  
32 such person is to be discharged from the correctional facility, determine  
33 the documentation such person requires to obtain such card or license;  
34 and (B) facilitate the process that allows such person to expeditiously  
35 obtain the required documentation by providing access to any forms,  
36 fees, fee waivers, notary services, and mailing-related needs, to secure  
37 the required documentation. For any person sentenced to a term of life  
38 imprisonment, the Commissioner of Correction shall begin the process  
39 described in this subdivision not later than twenty-four months prior to  
40 the person's earliest date of eligibility for parole, and immediately begin  
41 the process for any person whose sentence is reduced and the reduced  
42 sentence results in a date of discharge within twenty-four months;

43     (2) Not later than thirteen months prior to the date on which such  
44 person is to be discharged from the correctional facility, initiate a  
45 process that allows such person to expeditiously obtain any additionally  
46 required documentation or photographs by providing (A) access to any  
47 forms, fees, fee waivers, notary services, and mailing-related needs, to

48 secure the required documentation, and (B) a means by which to obtain  
49 the required photographs. For any person sentenced to a term of life  
50 imprisonment, the Commissioner of Correction shall begin the process  
51 described in this subdivision not later than thirteen months prior to the  
52 person's earliest date of eligibility for parole, and immediately begin the  
53 process for any person whose sentence is reduced and the reduced  
54 sentence results in a date of discharge within thirteen months; and

55 (3) Make any required licensing examination available to a person  
56 seeking to obtain a motor vehicle operator's license issued pursuant to  
57 chapter 246, except the provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to  
58 any required road test administered by the Department of Motor  
59 Vehicles.

60 (d) At the time a person is released from a correctional facility, the  
61 Commissioner of Correction shall provide a state identification card  
62 issued pursuant to section 1-1h or a motor vehicle operator's license  
63 issued pursuant to chapter 246 to any person who has successfully  
64 obtained such card or license pursuant to the provisions of this section.

65 (e) Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
66 Commissioner of Correction shall report, in accordance with the  
67 provisions of section 11-4a, on:

68 (1) The total number of formerly incarcerated persons who were  
69 issued original, renewal or duplicate state identification cards pursuant  
70 to section 1-1h, and original, renewal or duplicate motor vehicle  
71 operator's licenses issued pursuant to chapter 246, disaggregated by  
72 card and license type, and licensing examinations disaggregated by  
73 license type;

74 (2) The total number of identification cards and motor vehicle  
75 operator's licenses issued to such persons by each individual state  
76 correctional facility; and

77 (3) Any issues encountered by the Department of Correction in  
78 implementing the provisions of this section along with

79 recommendations for the resolution of such issues and any  
80 recommended enhancements to the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	18-81ff

**Statement of Purpose:**

To ensure that a person being discharged from a correctional facility has the ability to obtain a state identification card or a motor vehicle operator's license at the time of discharge from such facility.

*[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.]*