



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 8571



Offered by:

REP. STAFSTROM, 129th Dist.

SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.

REP. FISHBEIN, 90th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6875

File No. 588

Cal. No. 359

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 18-81ff of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective April 1, 2024*):

5 (a) The Commissioners of Correction and Motor Vehicles shall [,
6 within available appropriations,] ensure that [an inmate] a person who
7 is incarcerated possesses [a state identification] an identity card issued
8 pursuant to section 1-1h or a motor vehicle operator's license issued
9 pursuant to chapter 246 at the time such [inmate] person is discharged
10 or released from a correctional facility after serving any part of a term
11 of imprisonment for a misdemeanor or felony conviction [, provided
12 any such inmate (1) requests and qualifies for such identification card

13 or license, and (2) pays any fee associated with obtaining such
14 identification card or license.] with a sentence of not less than one year,
15 unless such person (1) indicates, in writing, on a form prescribed by the
16 Commissioner of Correction, that such person does not wish to obtain
17 such card or license, or (2) is otherwise ineligible for such card or license
18 for reasons that include, but are not limited to, suspension, revocation
19 or cancellation of motor vehicle operating provisions in this or any other
20 state.

21 (b) In order to effectuate the provisions of subsection (a) of this
22 section, at the time a person is committed to the custody of the
23 Commissioner of Correction, said commissioner, in consultation and
24 collaboration with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, shall ascertain
25 (1) whether the person has been issued a valid identity card pursuant to
26 section 1-1h or a motor vehicle operator's license pursuant to chapter
27 246, and (2) if such card or license has been issued, the date upon which
28 such card or license is to expire.

29 (c) For any person who is sentenced to a term of imprisonment who
30 wishes to (1) obtain an initial identity card issued pursuant to section 1-
31 1h, or renew such card, (2) renew a motor vehicle operator's license
32 pursuant to chapter 246, or (3) obtain a duplicate card or license if the
33 original card or license has been lost, the Commissioner of Correction,
34 in consultation and collaboration with the Commissioner of Motor
35 Vehicles, shall:

36 (A) (i) Not later than twenty-four months prior to the date on which
37 such person is to be discharged from the correctional facility, determine
38 the documentation such person requires to obtain such card or license;
39 and (ii) facilitate the process that allows such person to expeditiously
40 obtain the required documentation by providing access to any forms,
41 fees and fee waivers, within available appropriations, notary services
42 and mailing-related needs, to secure the required documentation. The
43 Commissioner of Correction shall begin the process described in this
44 subdivision not later than twenty-four months prior to the person's
45 earliest date of eligibility for parole, and immediately begin the process

46 for any person whose sentence is reduced, if the reduced sentence
47 results in a date of discharge within twenty-four months or for any
48 person who is otherwise scheduled to be released with a date of
49 discharge within twenty-four months; and

50 (B) Not later than thirteen months prior to the date on which such
51 person is to be discharged from the correctional facility, initiate a
52 process that allows such person to expeditiously obtain any additionally
53 required documentation or photographs by providing (i) access to any
54 forms, fees and fee waivers, within available appropriations, notary
55 services and mailing-related needs, to secure the required
56 documentation, and (ii) a means by which to obtain the required
57 photographs. The Commissioner of Correction shall begin the process
58 described in this subdivision not later than thirteen months prior to the
59 person's earliest date of eligibility for parole, and immediately begin the
60 process for any person whose sentence is reduced, if the reduced
61 sentence results in a date of discharge within thirteen months or for any
62 person who is otherwise scheduled to be released with a date of
63 discharge within thirteen months.

64 (d) At the time a person is released from a correctional facility, the
65 Commissioner of Correction shall provide an identity card issued
66 pursuant to section 1-1h or a motor vehicle operator's license issued
67 pursuant to chapter 246 to any person who requested assistance in
68 obtaining such card or license pursuant to the provisions of this section
69 and is not otherwise ineligible to receive such card or license.

70 (e) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the
71 Commissioner of Correction, in collaboration with the Commissioner of
72 Motor Vehicles, shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
73 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
74 having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary on:

75 (1) The total number of formerly incarcerated persons who were
76 issued original, renewal or duplicate identity cards pursuant to section
77 1-1h, and renewal or duplicate motor vehicle operator's licenses issued

78 pursuant to chapter 246, disaggregated by card and license type;

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

82 (3) The total number of incarcerated persons who were not able to be
83 issued an identification card or motor vehicle operator's license under
84 this section, disaggregated to the extent practicable by reasons for the
85 nonissuance of such cards or licenses; and

86 (4) Any issues encountered by the Commissioners of Correction and
87 Motor Vehicles in implementing the provisions of this section and
88 section 14-41c, as amended by this act, along with recommendations for
89 the resolution of such issues and any recommended legislative
90 enhancements to the provisions of this section and section 14-41c, as
91 amended by this act.

92 Sec. 2. Section 14-41c of the general statutes is repealed and the
93 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective April 1, 2024*):

94 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall consult with the
95 Commissioner of Correction to establish a procedure to renew the
96 operator's licenses and identity cards of persons who are incarcerated,
97 without the appearance of such persons at the Department of Motor
98 Vehicles, in accordance with subsection (b) of section 14-36d. Such
99 renewal shall be initiated at the request of an incarcerated person who
100 responds to a renewal notice for such person's operator's license or
101 identity card. This section shall not apply to the initial issuance of an
102 operator's license or identity card or the issuance of a license or identity
103 card that has expired more than two years before the date of the
104 requested renewal.

105 (b) On or before January 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
106 shall examine whether any feasible modifications can be made to
107 expand the permissible forms of identification that may be utilized for
108 purposes of obtaining operator's licenses and identity cards for persons

109 who are incarcerated. If the commissioner determines that feasible
110 modifications can be made, the commissioner shall implement such
111 feasible modifications."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>April 1, 2024</i>	18-81ff
Sec. 2	<i>April 1, 2024</i>	14-41c