

## SENATE BILL NO. 275

INTRODUCED BY BUTTREY, ARTHUN, EDMUNDS, HAGAN, INGRAHAM, JENT, LARSEN, MCCARTHY,  
MEHLHOFF, WILLIAMS, WITTICH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A VETERAN DESIGNATION ON STATE  
DRIVER'S LICENSES AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING  
SECTIONS 61-5-111, 61-5-114, AND 61-12-501, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Veteran status on driver's license and identification cards --  
documentation -- rulemaking.** (1) Upon receipt of documentation confirming veteran status from a person who  
wishes to have that status indicated on a driver's license or identification card issued by the department of justice,  
the department shall ~~issue a document to the person confirming~~ VERIFYING the person's status as a veteran.

(2) ~~The person shall present the document confirming the person's status as a veteran to the department  
of justice when~~ WHEN the person applies for, renews, or seeks replacement of a driver's license or identification  
card under Title 61, ~~and requests~~ THE PERSON MAY REQUEST that veteran status be indicated on the driver's license  
or identification card.

(3) The department shall, in consultation with the department of justice, make rules necessary to carry  
out the provisions of this section.

**Section 2.** Section 61-5-111, MCA, is amended to read:

**"61-5-111. Contents of driver's license, renewal, renewal by mail, license expirations, grace  
period, and fees for licenses, permits, and endorsements -- notice of expiration.** (1) (a) The department may  
appoint county treasurers and other qualified officers to act as its agents for the sale of driver's license receipts.  
The department shall adopt necessary rules governing sales. In areas in which the department provides driver  
licensing services 3 days or more a week, the department is responsible for sale of receipts and may appoint an  
agent to sell receipts.

(b) The department may enter into an authorized agent agreement with the county treasurer of any  
county in which the department no longer maintains a driver examination station for the purpose of providing

1 driver's license renewal services.

2 (2) (a) The department, upon receipt of payment of the fees specified in this section, shall issue a driver's  
3 license to each qualifying applicant. The license must contain:

4 (i) a full-face photograph of the licensee in the size and form prescribed by the department;

5 (ii) a distinguishing number issued to the licensee;

6 (iii) the full legal name, date of birth, Montana residence address unless the licensee requests use of the  
7 mailing address, and a brief description of the licensee; ~~and~~

8 (iv) either the licensee's customary signature or a digital reproduction of the licensee's customary  
9 signature; and

10 (v) if the applicant qualifies under subsection (7), indication of the applicant's status as a veteran.

11 (b) The department may not use the licensee's social security number as the distinguishing number  
12 unless the licensee expressly authorizes the use. A license is not valid until it is signed by the licensee.

13 (3) (a) When a person applies for renewal of a driver's license, the department shall conduct a records  
14 check in accordance with 61-5-110(1) to determine the applicant's eligibility status and shall test the applicant's  
15 eyesight. The department may also require the applicant to submit to a knowledge and road or skills test if:

16 (i) the renewal applicant has a physical or mental disability, limitation, or condition that impairs, or may  
17 impair, the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle  
18 on the highway; and

19 (ii) the expired or expiring license does not include adaptive equipment or operational restrictions  
20 appropriate to the applicant's functional abilities; or

21 (iii) the applicant wants to remove or modify the restrictions stated on the expired or expiring license.

22 (b) In the case of a commercial driver's license, the department shall, if the information was not provided  
23 in a prior licensing cycle, require the renewal applicant to provide the name of each jurisdiction in which the  
24 applicant was previously licensed to drive any type of motor vehicle during the 10-year period immediately  
25 preceding the date of the renewal application and may also require that the applicant successfully complete a  
26 written examination as required by federal regulations.

27 (c) A person is considered to have applied for renewal of a Montana driver's license if the application  
28 is made within 6 months before or 3 months after the expiration of the person's license. Except as provided in  
29 subsection (3)(d), a person seeking to renew a driver's license shall appear in person at a Montana driver's  
30 examination station.

1 (d) (i) Except as provided in subsections (3)(d)(iv) through (3)(d)(vi), a person may renew a driver's  
2 license by mail if the person certifies that the person is temporarily out of state and will not be returning to the  
3 state prior to the expiration of the license. A person may not renew by mail for a subsequent license term after  
4 a mail renewal, except that a spouse or dependent of a person stationed outside Montana on active military duty  
5 may renew a driver's license by mail for one additional consecutive term following a mail renewal.

6 (ii) An applicant who renews a driver's license by mail shall submit to the department an approved vision  
7 examination and a medical evaluation from a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or advanced  
8 practice registered nurse, as defined in 37-8-102, in addition to the fees required for renewal.

9 (iii) If the department does not have a digitized photograph or signature record of the renewal applicant  
10 from the expiring license, then the department may require the renewal applicant to submit a personal photograph  
11 and signature that meets the requirements prescribed by the department.

12 (iv) Except as provided in subsections (4)(b) and (4)(c), the term of a license renewed by mail is 8 years.

13 (v) The department may not renew a license by mail if:

14 (A) the records check conducted in accordance with 61-5-110(1) shows an ineligible license status for  
15 the applicant; or

16 (B) the applicant holds a commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials endorsement, the  
17 retention of which requires additional testing and a security threat assessment under 49 CFR, part 1572.

18 (vi) If a license was issued to a foreign national whose presence in the United States is temporarily  
19 authorized under federal law, the license may not be renewed by mail.

20 (e) The department shall mail a driver's license renewal notice no earlier than 60 days and no later than  
21 30 days prior to the expiration date of a driver's license. Except as provided in 61-3-119 and 61-5-115, the  
22 department shall mail the notice to the Montana mailing address shown on the driver's license.

23 (4) (a) Except as provided in subsections (4)(b) through (4)(e), a license expires on the anniversary of  
24 the licensee's birthday 8 years or less after the date of issue or on the licensee's 75th birthday, whichever occurs  
25 first.

26 (b) A license issued to a person who is 75 years of age or older expires on the anniversary of the  
27 licensee's birthday 4 years or less after the date of issue.

28 (c) A license issued to a person who is under 21 years of age expires on the licensee's 21st birthday.

29 (d) (i) Except as provided in subsection (4)(d)(ii), a commercial driver's license expires on the anniversary  
30 of the licensee's birthday 5 years or less after the date of issue.

1 (ii) When a person obtains a Montana commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials  
 2 endorsement after surrendering a comparable commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials  
 3 endorsement from another licensing jurisdiction, the license expires on the anniversary of the licensee's birthday  
 4 5 years or less after the date of the issue of the surrendered license if, as reported in the commercial driver's  
 5 license information system, a security threat assessment was performed on the person as a condition of issuance  
 6 of the surrendered license.

7 (e) A license issued to a person who is a foreign national whose presence in the United States is  
 8 temporarily authorized under federal law expires, as determined by the department, no later than the expiration  
 9 date of the official document issued to the person by the bureau of citizenship and immigration services of the  
 10 department of homeland security authorizing the person's presence in the United States.

11 (5) When the department issues a driver's license to a person under 18 years of age, the license must  
 12 be clearly marked with a notation that conveys the restrictions imposed under 61-5-133.

13 (6) (a) Upon application for a driver's license or commercial driver's license and any combination of the  
 14 specified endorsements, the following fees must be paid:

15 (i) driver's license, except a commercial driver's license -- \$5 a year or fraction of a year;

16 (ii) motorcycle endorsement -- 50 cents a year or fraction of a year;

17 (iii) commercial driver's license:

18 (A) interstate -- \$10 a year or fraction of a year; or

19 (B) intrastate -- \$8.50 a year or fraction of a year.

20 (b) A renewal notice for either a driver's license or a commercial driver's license is 50 cents.

21 (7) (a) Upon receiving A REQUEST from an applicant a document confirming the applicant's A PERSON  
 22 WHOSE status as a veteran issued HAS BEEN VERIFIED by the department of military affairs pursuant to [section 1]  
 23 and upon receiving the information and fees required in this part, the department shall include the word "veteran"  
 24 on the face of the license.

25 (b) After a person's status as a veteran is denoted on a driver's license, the department may not require  
 26 further documentation of that status from the holder of the license upon subsequent renewal or replacement.

27 (c) When an applicant surrenders a valid driver's license issued by another jurisdiction and that license  
 28 denotes a person's status as a veteran, the department may accept that in lieu of a document from the  
 29 department of military affairs confirming the applicant's status as a veteran."

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1           **Section 3.** Section 61-5-114, MCA, is amended to read:

2           **"61-5-114. Replacement license or permit -- veteran designation.** (1) If an instruction permit or  
3 driver's license issued under the provisions of this chapter is lost or destroyed or a person wants to update  
4 personal information contained on an instruction permit or a driver's license issued to the person, the person to  
5 whom the permit or license was issued may, upon the payment of a fee of \$10, obtain a replacement permit or  
6 license, upon furnishing proof satisfactory to the department that the permit or license has been lost or destroyed  
7 or that personal information has changed.

8           (2) If the hazardous materials endorsement on a commercial driver's license issued under the provisions  
9 of this chapter is revoked or removed pursuant to the authority provided in 61-5-147, the person to whom the  
10 license was issued shall surrender to the department the person's commercial driver's license with the hazardous  
11 materials endorsement and may obtain, upon making application and paying a \$10 fee, a replacement license  
12 that does not include a hazardous materials endorsement.

13           (3) The department shall include the word "veteran" on the face of a driver's license if the requirements  
14 of 61-5-111(7) are met by the person applying for the driver's license."

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16           **Section 4.** Section 61-12-502, MCA, is amended to read:

17           **"61-12-502. Rules for identification cards -- veteran designation.** (1) The department shall formulate  
18 and adopt rules governing the issuance and cancellation of identification cards that comport with the proof of  
19 identify, residence, and authorized presence standards for a driver's license issued under Title 61, chapter 5.

20           (2) The department shall include the word "veteran" on the face of an identification card if the  
21 requirements of 61-5-111(7) are met by the person applying for the identification card."

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23           NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
24 integral part of Title 10, chapter 2, and the provisions of Title 10, chapter 2, apply to [section 1].

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26           NEW SECTION. Section 6. Effective date. [This act] is effective January 1, 2014.

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