

House File 2505 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2505

BY RINKER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to state services and benefits provided
2 to veterans, including state grants, public assistance
3 programs, business fee waivers, substance use disorder
4 programs, mental health and disability services,
5 undergraduate tuition and fees, disabled veteran tax
6 credits, department of natural resources' licenses and
7 fees, civil litigation priority, vehicle registration fees,
8 and driver's licenses, making penalties applicable, making
9 appropriations, and including effective date provisions.
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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DIVISION I

VETERAN PREFERENCE — STATE GRANTS

Section 1. NEW SECTION. **35.4 Veteran preference — state grants.**

1. A state agency shall give preference to a veteran over other applicants of no greater qualifications for the award of a grant that is overseen, implemented, or funded by the state.

2. For purposes of this section, “state agency” means the same as defined in section 8.11.

DIVISION II

VETERAN PREFERENCE — PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **35C.10 Veterans preference — public assistance programs.**

Veterans who are citizens and residents of the United States are entitled to preference for assistance programs including but not limited to public assistance pursuant to chapter 239, the family investment program pursuant to chapter 239B, the supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, the state child care assistance program established pursuant to section 237A.13, and the United States department of housing and urban development housing choice voucher program.

DIVISION III

BUSINESS FEE WAIVERS

Sec. 3. Section 9.11, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

As used in this ~~subchapter part~~, unless the context otherwise requires:

Sec. 4. Section 9.12, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

9.12 Rules.

The secretary shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) necessary or desirable to administer this ~~subchapter part~~, including by offering and performing extra filing services upon request by filers. The rules may increase the amount of a

1 surcharge implemented, assessed, and collected, or modify the
2 period of service as provided under this ~~subchapter~~ part.

3 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 9.21 **Definitions.**

4 As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires:

5 1. "Secretary" means the secretary of state.

6 2. "Waiver" means a military service filing fee waiver as
7 provided in sections 9.22 and 9.23.

8 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 9.22 **Rules.**

9 1. The secretary of state shall adopt rules pursuant to
10 chapter 17A necessary or desirable to administer this part.

11 2. The rules adopted pursuant to subsection 1 shall at least
12 provide procedures governing a request by a qualified business
13 entity to receive a military service filing fee waiver from
14 the secretary, the secretary's approval or rejection of that
15 request, and the qualified business entity's receipt and use of
16 that waiver by an eligible filer, all as provided in sections
17 9.24 and 9.25.

18 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 9.23 **Fees not subject to waiver.**

19 1. This part does not apply to waive a fee imposed on a
20 filed select document if the qualified business entity receives
21 the waiver after the select document is filed, unless the
22 secretary of state allows for the refund of such fee.

23 2. This part does not prohibit the refund of a filing fee
24 otherwise authorized by another provision of law.

25 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 9.24 **Military service filing fee
26 waiver.**

27 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
28 the secretary of state shall establish a military service
29 filing fee waiver. The waiver shall apply to select documents,
30 if filed on behalf of a qualified business entity by an
31 eligible filer, and approved by the secretary, as provided in
32 section 9.25.

33 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 9.25 **Qualifications for business
34 entities, eligibility for filers, and selection of documents —
35 criteria.**

1 1. A business entity qualifies to receive a military
2 service filing fee waiver if the business entity is any of the
3 following:

4 a. A domestic limited partnership formed under chapter 488
5 or a foreign limited partnership transacting business in this
6 state under that chapter.

7 b. A domestic limited liability company formed under chapter
8 489 or a foreign limited liability company doing business in
9 this state under that chapter.

10 c. A domestic corporation formed under chapter 490 or a
11 foreign corporation doing business in this state under that
12 chapter.

13 d. A domestic nonprofit corporation formed under chapter 504
14 or a foreign nonprofit corporation transacting business in this
15 state under that chapter.

16 2. An individual is eligible to sign for filing a select
17 document receiving a waiver on behalf of the qualified business
18 entity, if the individual is all of the following:

19 a. An interest holder in the qualified business entity.

20 b. Any of the following:

21 (1) An officer or enlisted member serving in the armed
22 forces of the United States, including any component, part, or
23 corps of the armed forces of the United States, as described
24 in chapter 29A.

25 (2) An officer or enlisted member of the national guard or
26 organized reserves of the armed forces of the United States;
27 any regular, reserve, or auxiliary member of the United States
28 coast guard; or any member of the civil air patrol.

29 (3) A veteran as defined in section 35.1.

30 3. A document is selected to receive a waiver only if the
31 document is named in the following:

32 a. Section 488.117A, subsection 1, for limited partnerships.

33 b. Section 489.122, subsection 1, for limited liability
34 companies.

35 c. Section 490.122, subsection 1, for corporations.

1 *d.* Section 504.113, subsection 1, for nonprofit
2 corporations.

3 4. The secretary by rule may provide for all of the
4 following:

5 *a.* Additional requirements for the qualifications of a
6 business entity, the eligibility of a filer, or a document's
7 selection for waiver.

8 *b.* A routine approval process.

9 Sec. 10. Section 488.117A, subsection 1, unnumbered
10 paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

11 The Except as provided in subsection 4, the secretary of
12 state shall collect the following fees when the documents
13 described in [this subsection](#) are delivered to the secretary's
14 office for filing:

15 Sec. 11. Section 488.117A, Code 2024, is amended by adding
16 the following new subsection:

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. A limited partnership, filing as a
18 qualified business entity under chapter 9, subchapter II, part
19 2, may request and shall receive a military service filing fee
20 waiver for a select document named in subsection 1.

21 Sec. 12. Section 489.122, subsection 1, unnumbered
22 paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

23 The Except as provided in subsection 3A, the secretary of
24 state shall collect the following fees when documents described
25 in [this subsection](#) are delivered to the secretary's office for
26 filing:

27 Sec. 13. Section 489.122, Code 2024, is amended by adding
28 the following new subsection:

29 NEW SUBSECTION. 3A. A limited liability company, or foreign
30 limited liability company, filing as a qualified business
31 entity under chapter 9, subchapter II, part 2, may request and
32 shall receive a military service filing fee waiver for a select
33 document named in subsection 1.

34 Sec. 14. Section 490.122, subsection 1, unnumbered
35 paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

1 ~~The~~ Except as provided in subsection 4, the secretary of
2 state shall collect the following fees when the documents
3 described in this subsection are delivered to the secretary of
4 state for filing:

5 Sec. 15. Section 490.122, Code 2024, is amended by adding
6 the following new subsection:

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. A corporation, or a foreign corporation,
8 filing as a qualified business entity under chapter 9,
9 subchapter II, part 2, may request and shall receive a military
10 service filing fee waiver for a select document named in
11 subsection 1.

12 Sec. 16. Section 504.113, subsection 1, unnumbered
13 paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

14 ~~The~~ Except as provided in subsection 4, the secretary of
15 state shall collect the following fees, as provided by the
16 secretary of state, when the documents described in this
17 subsection are delivered for filing:

18 Sec. 17. Section 504.113, Code 2024, is amended by adding
19 the following new subsection:

20 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. A corporation, filing as a qualified
21 business entity under chapter 9, subchapter II, part 2, may
22 request and shall receive a military service filing fee waiver
23 for a select document named in subsection 1.

24 Sec. 18. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act takes
25 effect January 1, 2025.

26 DIVISION IV

27 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PROGRAMS — MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY
28 SERVICES

29 Sec. 19. NEW SECTION. 125.35 **Veterans — priority**
30 **assistance.**

31 Each facility licensed under this chapter that maintains a
32 wait list for care, maintenance, or treatment of persons with
33 a substance use disorder shall place a veteran, as defined in
34 section 35.1, on the wait list in a position that allows the
35 veteran priority for acceptance into the treatment program

1 under section 125.32 before any person on the wait list who is
2 not a veteran, but after each veteran currently on the wait
3 list.

4 Sec. 20. NEW SECTION. **225C.22 Veterans — priority**
5 **assistance.**

6 Each service provider operating through the mental health
7 and disability services regional service system that maintains
8 a wait list for mental health or disability services shall
9 place a veteran, as defined in section 35.1, on the wait list
10 in a position that allows the veteran to receive the services
11 before any person on the wait list who is not a veteran, but
12 after each veteran currently on the wait list.

13 DIVISION V

14 WAIVER OF UNDERGRADUATE TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES

15 Sec. 21. Section 262.9, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
16 following new subsection:

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 17A. *a.* Subject to paragraph `b`, adopt
18 rules that require institutions of higher education under
19 its control to waive all undergraduate tuition and mandatory
20 fees for veterans or a dependent of a veteran, if designated
21 by a veteran, while the veteran or dependent is enrolled in
22 the institution of higher education, if all of the following
23 requirements are satisfied:

24 (1) The veteran was a resident of this state immediately
25 prior to joining the armed forces of the United States.

26 (2) The veteran was discharged from the armed forces of the
27 United States under honorable conditions.

28 (3) The veteran resides in this state immediately prior
29 to applying to enroll, or prior to the dependent applying to
30 enroll, in the institution of higher education.

31 *b.* The rules shall not waive an amount of tuition and
32 mandatory fees that exceeds the difference between the combined
33 amount of tuition and mandatory fees charged by the institution
34 less any federal financial aid award the veteran or dependent
35 receives under any federal program that provides financial aid

1 to veterans.

2 c. For purposes of this subsection:

3 (1) "Dependent" means the spouse or child of a veteran.

4 (2) "Veteran" means the same as defined in section 35.1.

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DIVISION VI

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DRIVER'S LICENSE — VETERAN STATUS — FEES

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Sec. 22. Section 321.189, subsection 8, Code 2024, is

8 amended to read as follows:

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8. ~~Veterans~~ Veteran status. A licensee who is ~~an honorably~~
10 ~~discharged a~~ veteran of the armed forces of the United States,

11 as defined in section 35.1, may request that the license be

12 marked to reflect the licensee's veteran status. Upon such

13 a request, the word "VETERAN" shall be marked prominently on

14 the face of the license. Such a license shall be issued upon

15 receipt of satisfactory proof of veteran status pursuant to

16 procedures established by the department in consultation with

17 the department of veterans affairs, or upon presentation of

18 the licensee's certification of release or discharge from

19 active duty, DD form 214, to the department at the time of

20 the licensee's request, if the form indicates the licensee

21 was honorably discharged. If the license is issued upon

22 presentation of the licensee's certification of release or

23 discharge from active duty, DD form 214, the department shall

24 notify the commission of veteran affairs of the county of the

25 licensee's residence that the licensee was issued a license

26 marked to reflect the licensee's veteran status. After

27 receiving notification from the department, the commission of

28 veteran affairs shall initiate contact with the licensee.

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Sec. 23. Section 321.191, subsection 10, paragraph a, Code

30 2024, is amended to read as follows:

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a. The fees set forth under subsections 2, 3, 4, and 5 to an

32 applicant who is a veteran ~~with a permanent service-connected~~

33 ~~disability rating of one hundred percent, as certified by the~~

34 ~~United States department of veterans affairs,~~ as defined in

35 section 35.1.

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DIVISION VII

VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES — VETERANS EXEMPT

Sec. 24. Section 321.105, Code 2024, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 6. A veteran, as defined in section 35.1, who is not otherwise exempt under subsection 5, is exempt from payment of annual registration fees provided in this chapter for not more than three vehicles registered by the veteran, if the veteran resides in Iowa. The veteran shall be provided, without fee, one set of regular registration plates for each vehicle. In lieu of the set of regular registration plates available without fee, the veteran may obtain a set of special registration plates or personalized registration plates issued under section 321.34 by paying the additional fees associated with those plates.

DIVISION VIII

DISABLED VETERAN TAX CREDIT

Sec. 25. NEW SECTION. **426D.1 Disabled veterans property tax credit.**

1. For purposes of this section, “*qualifying veteran*” means a person who meets the definition of a veteran under section 35.1, and has a disability rating of twenty percent or more as certified by the United States department of veterans affairs.

2. A qualifying veteran shall be allowed a credit on each property that is owned solely by the qualifying veteran or jointly by the qualifying veteran and the qualifying veteran’s spouse.

3. The amount of the credit under this section on a property shall be equal to the property tax owed on the property multiplied by the disability rating given to the qualifying veteran as certified by the United States department of veterans affairs, up to a maximum reduction of ten thousand dollars per property.

4. The credit allowed under this section shall continue until the later to occur of the following:

1 *a.* The qualifying veteran dies.

2 *b.* The qualifying veteran's surviving spouse dies or the
3 qualifying veteran's surviving spouse remarries, whichever is
4 earlier.

5 5. *a.* Except as provided in paragraph "b", the list of
6 the names and addresses of individuals allowed a credit under
7 this section and maintained by the county recorder, county
8 treasurer, county assessor, city assessor, or other government
9 body is confidential information and shall not be disseminated
10 to any person unless otherwise ordered by a court or released
11 by the lawful custodian of the records pursuant to state or
12 federal law. The county recorder, county treasurer, county
13 assessor, city assessor, or other government body responsible
14 for maintaining the names and addresses of individuals
15 allowed a credit under this section may display the credit on
16 individual paper records and individual electronic records,
17 including display on an internet site.

18 *b.* Upon request, a county recorder, county assessor, city
19 assessor, or other entity may share information as described
20 in paragraph "a" with a county veterans service officer for
21 purposes of providing information on benefits and services
22 available to veterans and their families.

23 Sec. 26. NEW SECTION. **426D.2 Computation by auditor.**

24 On or before August 1 of each year, the county auditor
25 shall certify to the county treasurer all claims for disabled
26 veteran tax credits which have been allowed by the board of
27 supervisors. Such certificate shall list the total amount
28 of dollars, listed by taxing district in the county, due for
29 disabled veteran tax credits claimed and allowed. The county
30 treasurer shall certify to the department of revenue the amount
31 of dollars, listed by taxing district in the county, due for
32 disabled veteran tax credits claimed and allowed.

33 Sec. 27. NEW SECTION. **426D.3 Certification by director of**
34 **revenue.**

35 Sums distributable from the general fund of the state

1 shall be allocated annually to the counties of the state.
2 On September 15 of each year, the director of revenue shall
3 certify and the department of administrative services shall
4 draw warrants to the treasurer of each county payable from the
5 general fund of the state in the amount claimed. Payments
6 shall be made to the treasurer of each county no later than
7 September 30 of each year.

8 Sec. 28. NEW SECTION. **426D.4 Proportionate shares to**
9 **districts.**

10 The amount of credits received under this chapter shall be
11 apportioned by each county treasurer to the several taxing
12 districts. Each taxing district shall receive its share of the
13 disabled veteran tax credit allowed in the taxing district on a
14 property in an amount equal to the proportion of the levy made
15 by the taxing district in relation to the total of all levies
16 made on the property.

17 Sec. 29. NEW SECTION. **426D.5 Setting aside allowance.**

18 If the department of revenue determines that a claim for
19 disabled veteran tax credit has been allowed by a board of
20 supervisors which is not justifiable under the law and not
21 substantiated by proper facts, the department may, at any time
22 within thirty-six months from July 1 of the year in which
23 the claim is allowed, set aside the allowance. Notice of
24 the disallowance shall be given to the county auditor of the
25 county in which the claim has been improperly granted and a
26 written notice of the disallowance shall also be addressed
27 to the claimant at the claimant's last known address. The
28 claimant or the board of supervisors may appeal to the
29 director of revenue within thirty days from the date of the
30 notice of disallowance. The director shall grant a hearing
31 and if, upon the hearing, the director determines that the
32 disallowance was incorrect, the director shall set aside the
33 disallowance. The director shall notify the claimant and
34 the board of supervisors of the result of the hearing. The
35 claimant or the board of supervisors may seek judicial review

1 of the action of the director of revenue in accordance with
2 chapter 17A. If a claim is disallowed by the department of
3 revenue and not appealed to the director of revenue or appealed
4 to the director of revenue and subsequently upheld upon final
5 resolution, including judicial review, the credits allowed and
6 paid from the general fund of the state become a lien upon the
7 property on which the credit was originally granted if the
8 property is still owned by the claimant and not a bona fide
9 purchaser. The amount owing on the lien shall be collected by
10 the county treasurer in the same manner as other taxes, and
11 the collections shall be returned to the department of revenue
12 and credited to the general fund of the state. The director
13 of revenue may institute legal proceedings against a disabled
14 veteran tax credit claimant for the collection of payments made
15 on disallowed credits.

16 Sec. 30. NEW SECTION. **426D.6 Forms — rules.**

17 1. The director of revenue shall prescribe the form for
18 making a verified statement and designating property for the
19 disabled veteran tax credit and such other forms as may be
20 necessary for the proper administration of this chapter. The
21 department of revenue shall forward to each county auditor
22 prescribed sample forms.

23 2. The department of revenue shall adopt rules pursuant to
24 chapter 17A to implement and administer this chapter.

25 Sec. 31. NEW SECTION. **426D.7 Excess remitted — appeals.**

26 1. If the amount of credit apportioned to any property
27 eligible for a disabled veteran tax credit under this chapter
28 in any year shall exceed the total tax, exclusive of any
29 special assessments levied against such property eligible
30 for the disabled veteran tax credit, then the excess shall
31 be remitted by the county treasurer to the department of
32 revenue to be redeposited in the general fund of the state and
33 reallocated the following year by the department.

34 2. *a.* If any claim for a credit made has been denied
35 by the board of supervisors, and the action is subsequently

1 reversed on appeal, the credit shall be allowed on the assessed
2 valuation, not to exceed the amount of the disabled veteran
3 tax credit involved in the appeal, as was allowed on other
4 disabled veteran tax credit valuations for the year or years in
5 question, and the director of revenue, the county auditor, and
6 the county treasurer shall credit and change their books and
7 records accordingly.

8 *b.* If the appealing taxpayer has paid one or both of
9 the installments of the tax payable in the year or years
10 in question on the disabled veteran tax credit valuation,
11 remittance shall be made to the county treasurer in the amount
12 of such credit.

13 *c.* The amount of the credit shall be allocated and paid
14 from the surplus redeposited in the general fund of the state
15 provided for in subsection 1.

16 Sec. 32. NEW SECTION. **426D.8 Erroneous credits.**

17 If any claim is allowed, and subsequently reversed on
18 appeal, any credit shall be void, and the amount of the
19 credit shall be charged against the property in question, and
20 the director of revenue, the county auditor, and the county
21 treasurer shall correct their books and records. The amount of
22 the erroneous credit, when collected, shall be returned by the
23 county treasurer to the general fund of the state.

24 Sec. 33. NEW SECTION. **426D.9 Allowance — continuing**
25 **effectiveness.**

26 1. The assessor shall retain a permanent file of current
27 disabled veteran tax credit claims filed in the assessor's
28 office. The assessor shall file a notice of transfer of
29 property for which a claim is filed when notice is received
30 from the office of the county recorder, from the person
31 who sold or transferred the property, or from the personal
32 representative of a deceased claimant.

33 2. The county recorder shall give notice to the assessor
34 of each transfer of title filed in the recorder's office. The
35 notice shall describe the property transferred, the name of the

1 person transferring the title to the property, and the name of
2 the person to whom title to the property has been transferred.

3 3. Not later than July 6 of each year, the assessor shall
4 remit the claims and designations of property to the county
5 auditor with the assessor's recommendation for allowance
6 or disallowance. If the assessor recommends disallowance
7 of a claim, the assessor shall submit the reasons for the
8 recommendation, in writing, to the county auditor.

9 4. The county auditor shall forward the claims to the board
10 of supervisors. The board shall allow or disallow the claims.
11 If the board disallows a claim, it shall send written notice,
12 by mail, to the claimant at the claimant's last known address.
13 The notice shall state the reasons for disallowing the claim
14 for the credit. The board is not required to send notice that
15 a claim is disallowed if the claimant voluntarily withdraws the
16 claim.

17 5. Any person whose claim is denied under the provisions
18 of this chapter may appeal from the action of the board of
19 supervisors in the district court of the county in which said
20 claimed disabled veteran tax credit is situated by giving
21 written notice of such appeal to the county auditor of said
22 county within twenty days from the date of mailing of notice of
23 such action by the board of supervisors.

24 6. Upon adoption of a resolution by the county board of
25 supervisors, any person may request, in writing, from the
26 appropriate assessor forms for the filing for a disabled
27 veteran tax credit. The person may complete the form, which
28 shall include a statement claiming the disabled veteran tax
29 credit and designating the property upon which the tax credit
30 is claimed, and mail or return it to the appropriate assessor.
31 The signature of the claimant on the claim shall be considered
32 the claimant's acknowledgment that all statements and facts
33 entered on the form are correct to the best of the claimant's
34 knowledge.

35 Sec. 34. NEW SECTION. 426D.10 Penalty.

1 Any person making a false affidavit for the purpose of
2 obtaining the credit provided for in this chapter or who
3 knowingly receives the credit without being legally entitled to
4 the credit, shall be guilty of a fraudulent practice.

5 Sec. 35. NEW SECTION. **426D.11 Appropriations.**

6 There is appropriated from the general fund of the state
7 the amounts necessary to fund the credits provided under this
8 chapter.

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DIVISION IX

10 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES — LICENSES AND FEES

11 Sec. 36. Section 455A.14, Code 2024, is amended by adding
12 the following new subsection:

13 NEW SUBSECTION. 6. The department shall not require a
14 veteran to pay a fee established by the department pursuant to
15 this section. The department of veterans affairs shall assist
16 the department in verifying the status or claims of applicants
17 under this subsection. As used in this subsection, "veteran"
18 means the same as defined in section 35.1.

19 Sec. 37. NEW SECTION. **462A.5B Veteran registration fee.**

20 A veteran who submits a proper application for a vessel
21 registration pursuant to section 462A.5 shall receive a
22 registration certificate from the county recorder without
23 paying a registration or writing fee. The department of
24 veterans affairs shall assist the department and the county
25 recorder's office in verifying the status or claims of
26 applicants under this section. As used in this section,
27 "veteran" means the same as defined in section 35.1.

28 Sec. 38. Section 483A.1, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
29 to read as follows:

30 1. a. Except as otherwise provided in [this chapter](#), a
31 person shall not fish, trap, hunt, pursue, catch, kill, take
32 in any manner, use, have possession of, sell, or transport
33 all or a part of any wild animal, bird, game, turtle, or
34 fish, the protection and regulation of which is desirable for
35 the conservation of resources of the state, without first

1 obtaining a license for that purpose, and the payment of a fee
2 as established by rules adopted by the commission pursuant to
3 chapter 17A.

4 b. A veteran applying for any hunting, fur harvester, or
5 fishing license issued pursuant to paragraph "a", whether
6 general or specific, is not required to pay a fee to obtain
7 the license. The department of veterans affairs shall assist
8 the department in verifying the status or claims of applicants
9 under this paragraph. As used in this paragraph, "veteran"
10 means the same as defined in section 35.1.

11 Sec. 39. Section 483A.3, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
12 by adding the following new paragraph:

13 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. A veteran who has obtained a valid
14 hunting or fur harvester license pursuant to section 483A.1 is
15 not required to pay the wildlife habitat fee for that license.
16 The department of veterans affairs shall assist the department
17 in verifying the status or claims of applicants under this
18 paragraph. As used in this paragraph, "veteran" means the same
19 as defined in section 35.1.

20 Sec. 40. Section 483A.6, Code 2024, is amended to read as
21 follows:

22 **483A.6 Trout fishing fee.**

23 Any person required to have a fishing license, except for
24 a veteran, shall not fish for or possess trout unless that
25 person has paid the trout fishing fee. The department shall
26 not require a veteran to pay a trout fishing fee. The proceeds
27 from the fee shall be used exclusively for the trout program
28 designated by the commission. The commission may grant a
29 permit to a community event in which trout will be stocked in
30 water ~~which~~ that is not designated trout water and a person may
31 catch and possess trout during the period and from the water
32 covered by the permit without having paid the trout fishing
33 fee. For purposes of this section, "veteran" means the same as
34 defined in section 35.1.

35 Sec. 41. Section 483A.24, subsections 16 and 19, Code 2024,

1 are amended to read as follows:

2 16. Upon ~~payment of the fee established by rules adopted~~
3 ~~pursuant to [section 483A.1](#)~~ application for a lifetime fishing
4 license or lifetime hunting and fishing combined license, the
5 department shall issue a lifetime fishing license or lifetime
6 hunting and fishing combined license to a resident of Iowa
7 who has served in the armed forces of the United States on
8 federal active duty and who was disabled or was a prisoner of
9 war during that veteran's military service. The department
10 shall prepare an application to be used by a person requesting
11 a lifetime fishing license or lifetime hunting and fishing
12 combined license under [this subsection](#). The department of
13 veterans affairs shall assist the department in verifying the
14 status or claims of applicants under [this subsection](#). As used
15 in [this subsection](#), "*disabled*" means entitled to a service
16 connected rating under 38 U.S.C. ch. 11.

17 19. Upon ~~payment of a fee established by rules adopted~~
18 ~~pursuant to [section 483A.1](#)~~ application for a lifetime trout
19 fishing license, the department shall issue a lifetime trout
20 fishing license to a person who is at least sixty-five years
21 of age or to a person who qualifies for the disabled veteran
22 homestead credit under [section 425.15](#). The department shall
23 prepare an application to be used by a person requesting a
24 lifetime trout fishing license under [this subsection](#).

25 DIVISION X

26 CIVIL LITIGATION BY VETERANS

27 Sec. 42. NEW SECTION. 610B.1 **Civil actions or appeals**
28 **brought by veterans.**

29 If a person bringing a civil action or appeal is a veteran,
30 as defined in section 35.1, the court shall make every effort
31 to grant the veteran priority over other actions brought by
32 other persons, including granting the highest scheduling
33 priority to a veteran's proceedings.

34 EXPLANATION

35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2 This bill relates to state services and benefits provided to
3 veterans.

4 DIVISION I — VETERANS PREFERENCE — STATE GRANTS. This
5 division requires a state agency to give preference to a
6 veteran over another applicant of similar qualifications for
7 the award of a grant that is overseen, implemented, or funded
8 by the state.

9 DIVISION II — VETERAN PREFERENCE — PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
10 PROGRAMS. This division requires the state to provide
11 veterans who are citizens and residents of the United States
12 a preference for assistance programs including but not
13 limited to public assistance, the family investment program,
14 the supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and
15 children, the state child care assistance program, and the
16 United States department of housing and urban development
17 housing choice voucher program.

18 DIVISION III — BUSINESS FEE WAIVERS.

19 BACKGROUND (BUSINESS ENTITIES). A business entity is a
20 general term for an association formed to conduct business
21 under several types of organizational structures recognized
22 by law (e.g., partnership and limited partnership, business
23 and nonprofit corporation, limited liability company, and
24 cooperative). Generally, a business entity may be formed as
25 a domestic business entity in its home state or as a foreign
26 business entity doing business in a state although it was
27 formed in another home state. In Iowa, a business entity is
28 governed under its own dedicated Code chapter, often based
29 on model legislation with fee amounts reserved for decision
30 by the enacting body. In Iowa, like most states, a business
31 entity is under the general authority of the secretary of state
32 (secretary).

33 SUMMARY. This division provides that a qualified business
34 entity that requests and receives a military service filing fee
35 waiver (waiver) from the secretary is not required to submit

1 a fee for filing a number of select documents. The division
2 specifies qualifications for a business entity, eligibility
3 for the filer of a select document, and the names of select
4 documents having fees waived, subject to further requirements
5 that the secretary may adopt by rule.

6 STATUTORY ORGANIZATION. The division amends Code chapter
7 9 establishing the secretary's office. Specifically, it
8 enacts new provisions in subchapter II of that Code chapter
9 which currently includes provisions authorizing extra filing
10 services. It also amends various Code chapters each of which
11 governs a specific type of business entity. The division
12 amends the principal Code section in each such Code chapter
13 that includes a laundry list of fees for filing documents.

14 IN DETAIL — QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITIES. First, in order
15 to receive a waiver, the business entity must be qualified,
16 meaning that the waiver is limited to a domestic or foreign
17 limited partnership (Code chapter 488); domestic or foreign
18 limited liability company (Code chapter 489); domestic or
19 foreign business corporation (Code chapter 490); and domestic
20 or foreign nonprofit corporation (Code chapter 504).

21 IN DETAIL — ELIGIBLE FILERS. Second, an individual
22 acting on behalf of the qualified business entity must meet
23 eligibility criteria. The individual must sign the document;
24 must be an interest holder in the qualified business entity;
25 and must be serving in the United States armed forces, the
26 national guard or organized reserves, the United States coast
27 guard, or the civil air patrol, or alternatively must be a
28 veteran.

29 IN DETAIL — SELECT DOCUMENTS FOR FILING. Third, the
30 filed document must be selected to receive the waiver. A
31 select document may include those associated with the business
32 entity's organization, name, registered agent or registered
33 office, domestication or conversion, merger, dissolution or
34 reinstatement, foreign registration, correction, validation,
35 biennial report, or other document required or permitted to be

1 filed. The amount of the fee ranges from \$100 to \$5.

2 EFFECTIVE DATE. This division takes effect January 1, 2025.

3 DIVISION IV — SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PROGRAMS — MENTAL
4 HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES. This division requires
5 each facility licensed under Code chapter 125 (substance use
6 disorders) that maintains a wait list for care, maintenance, or
7 treatment of persons with a substance use disorder to place a
8 veteran on the wait list in a position that allows the veteran
9 priority for acceptance into the treatment program before any
10 person on the wait list who is not a veteran, but after each
11 veteran currently on the wait list.

12 The division requires each service provider operating
13 through the mental health and disability services regional
14 service system that maintains a wait list for mental health or
15 disability services to place a veteran on the wait list in a
16 position that allows the veteran to receive the services before
17 any person on the wait list who is not a veteran, but after each
18 veteran currently on the wait list.

19 DIVISION V — WAIVER OF UNDERGRADUATE TUITION AND MANDATORY
20 FEES. This division requires the state board of regents to
21 adopt rules that waive undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees
22 for veterans, or a dependent of the veteran, while the veteran
23 or dependent is enrolled in the institution of higher education
24 under the board's control, if the veteran was a resident of
25 this state immediately prior to joining the armed forces of
26 the United States, was discharged under honorable conditions,
27 and resides in this state immediately prior to applying to
28 enroll, or prior to the dependent applying to enroll, in the
29 institution.

30 The division provides that the rules shall not waive
31 an amount of tuition and mandatory fees that exceeds the
32 difference between the combined amount of tuition and mandatory
33 fees charged by the institution less any federal financial aid
34 award the veteran or dependent receives.

35 The division defines "dependent" to mean the spouse or child

1 of a veteran. The division defines "veteran" by reference to
2 Code section 35.1.

3 DIVISION VI — DRIVER'S LICENSE — VETERAN STATUS — FEES.
4 This division of the bill relates to driver's licenses issued
5 to veterans.

6 Current law requires the department of transportation (DOT)
7 to mark a driver's license with the word "VETERAN" if the
8 applicant is a qualifying veteran. Under Code section 321.189,
9 a licensee must be an honorably discharged veteran of the armed
10 forces of the United States to qualify for a veteran status
11 license. The DOT has adopted administrative rules defining
12 "veteran" for purposes of licensees requesting a veteran status
13 license (761 IAC 605.5(7)(e)). The bill strikes certain
14 existing service qualifications and instead references the
15 definition of "veteran" provided in Code section 35.1.

16 Under current law, the DOT is prohibited from charging a fee
17 to issue a noncommercial driver's license or license valid for
18 motorcycles to an applicant who is a veteran with a permanent
19 service-connected disability rating of 100 percent, as
20 certified by the United States department of veterans affairs.
21 The bill prohibits the DOT from charging a fee to issue a
22 noncommercial driver's license (\$4 per year of validity),
23 license for chauffeurs (\$8 per year of validity), commercial
24 driver's license (\$8 per year of license validity), or license
25 valid for motorcycles (an additional fee of \$2 per year of
26 validity) to a veteran, as defined in Code section 35.1.

27 DIVISION VII — VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES — VETERANS
28 EXEMPT. This division of the bill relates to registration fees
29 for vehicles owned by veterans.

30 Current law exempts seriously disabled veterans who have
31 been provided with an automobile or other vehicle by the United
32 States government from paying motor vehicle registration fees.
33 The bill exempts all other veterans who reside in Iowa from
34 paying annual vehicle registration fees for not more than three
35 vehicles registered by the veteran, and provides for one free

1 set of regular registration plates for each vehicle. In lieu
2 of the set of regular registration plates available without
3 fee, a veteran may obtain a set of special registration plates
4 or personalized registration plates by paying the additional
5 fees associated with those plates under current law. Under
6 current law, several special registration plates relating to
7 service in the armed forces are available at no charge to
8 eligible persons.

9 DIVISION VIII — DISABLED VETERANS PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.

10 This division creates a property tax credit for certain
11 veterans.

12 The division defines "qualifying veteran" as a person who
13 meets the definition of a veteran under Code section 35.1
14 (veterans affairs), and has a disability rating of 20 percent
15 or more as certified by the United States department of
16 veterans affairs.

17 The division allows a qualifying veteran a credit on each
18 amount of the credit on each property that is owned solely by
19 the qualifying veteran or jointly by the qualifying veteran and
20 the qualifying veteran's spouse. The amount of the credit on
21 a property is equal to the property tax owed on the property
22 multiplied by the disability rating given to the qualifying
23 veteran as certified by the United States department of
24 veterans affairs, up to a maximum reduction of \$10,000 per
25 property.

26 The division allows the credit to continue until the later to
27 occur between the qualifying veteran's death and the earlier to
28 occur between the qualifying veteran's surviving spouse's death
29 or remarriage.

30 Except upon a county veterans service officer's request for
31 the purposes of providing information on benefits and services
32 available to veterans and their families, the bill makes
33 confidential the list of the names and addresses of individuals
34 allowed a credit under the bill and maintained by the county
35 recorder, county treasurer, county assessor, city assessor, or

1 other government body. The bill prohibits this information
2 from being disseminated to any person unless otherwise ordered
3 by a court or released by the lawful custodian of the records
4 pursuant to state or federal law. The county recorder, county
5 treasurer, county assessor, city assessor, or other government
6 body responsible for maintaining the names and addresses
7 of individuals allowed a credit may display the credit on
8 individual paper records and individual electronic records,
9 including display on an internet site. Upon request, a county
10 recorder, county assessor, city assessor, or other entity may
11 share information with a county veterans service officer for
12 purposes of providing information on benefits and services
13 available to veterans and their families.

14 The division requires the department of revenue, the
15 department of administrative services, county auditors, county
16 treasurers, and assessors to administer the disabled veteran
17 tax credit in a manner similar to the military service tax
18 credit and exemptions in Code chapter 426A.

19 The division makes any person who makes a false affidavit for
20 the purpose of obtaining the disabled veteran tax credit or who
21 knowingly receives the credit without being legally entitled
22 to the credit guilty of a fraudulent practice. A fraudulent
23 practice is punishable based on the amount of value involved,
24 and may range from a simple misdemeanor punishable by a fine up
25 to \$300, to a class "C" felony punishable by confinement for no
26 more than 10 years and a fine of at least \$1,370 but not more
27 than \$13,660.

28 The division appropriates from the general fund of the state
29 amounts necessary to fund the disabled veteran tax credit.

30 DIVISION IX — DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES — LICENSES
31 AND FEES. This division provides that the department of
32 natural resources shall not require a veteran to pay a fee
33 for camping and use of rental facilities at state parks and
34 recreation areas. A veteran who applies to register a vessel
35 for use in Iowa waters shall not be assessed a fee to receive

1 the registration certificate. A veteran applying for any
2 hunting, fur harvester, or fishing license is not required
3 to pay the license fee nor the wildlife habitat fee, if
4 applicable. A veteran who was disabled or was a prisoner of
5 war shall not be assessed a fee in applying for a lifetime
6 fishing license and a lifetime hunting and fishing combined
7 license. A veteran may also obtain a lifetime trout fishing
8 license without paying a fee if the veteran is at least 65
9 years of age or qualifies for the disabled veteran homestead
10 credit, and the department of natural resources shall not
11 require any veteran to pay a trout fishing fee. The department
12 of veteran affairs shall assist the department of natural
13 resources in verifying the status and claims of the veterans
14 applying for recreational privileges for which fees are
15 generally required.

16 DIVISION X — CIVIL LITIGATION BY VETERANS. This division
17 of the bill requires a court to, when able, grant a veteran
18 bringing a civil action or appeal priority over other actions
19 brought by other persons.