

House File 2479 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2479
BY COOLING

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to driver's licenses marked to reflect veteran
2 status.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 321.189, subsection 8, Code 2026, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 8. ~~Veterans~~ Veteran status. A licensee who is an honorably
4 discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States may
5 request that the license be marked to reflect the licensee's
6 veteran status. Upon such a request, the word "VETERAN" shall
7 be marked prominently on the face of the license. Such a license
8 shall be issued upon receipt of satisfactory proof of veteran
9 status pursuant to procedures established by the department
10 in consultation with the department of veterans affairs, or
11 upon presentation of the licensee's certification of release or
12 discharge from active duty, DD form 214, to the department at
13 the time of the licensee's request, if the form indicates the
14 licensee was honorably discharged. If the license is issued
15 upon presentation of the licensee's certification of release or
16 discharge from active duty, DD form 214, the department shall
17 notify the commission of veteran affairs of the county of the
18 licensee's residence that the licensee was issued a license
19 marked to reflect the licensee's veteran status. After receiving
20 notification from the department, the commission of veteran
21 affairs shall initiate contact with the licensee. For purposes
22 of this subsection, "veteran" includes but is not limited to a
23 person who served in the national guard, regardless of the number
24 of active duty service days served by the person.

25 EXPLANATION

26 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
27 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

28 Under current law, a person who is an honorably discharged
29 veteran of the armed forces of the United States may request that
30 the person's driver's license be marked to reflect the person's
31 status as a veteran. "Veteran" is not defined for purposes
32 of this provision. Under 761 IAC 605.4(7)(e), the department
33 of transportation (DOT) has provided, for purposes of driver's
34 license veteran status, that a veteran includes, among other
35 persons, an honorably discharged member of the national guard or

1 reserve forces who served for at least a minimum aggregate of 90
2 days of active duty service for purposes other than training.
3 The DOT's rule generally reflects the definition of "veteran"
4 under Code section 35.1 for purposes of veterans affairs, which
5 definition is also referenced in many places throughout the Code
6 to define "veteran".

7 The bill provides that, for purposes of driver's license
8 veteran status, "veteran" includes a person who served in the
9 national guard, regardless of the number of active duty service
10 days served by the person.

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