

**Senate File 152 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 152

BY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1037)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to state driver's license requirements for  
2 certain persons with a military driver's license.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 321.186, Code 2025, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. a. The department may waive the  
4 requirement that an applicant actually demonstrate the ability  
5 to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of  
6 a motor vehicle and other physical or mental examinations for  
7 an applicant who is on active duty in the military service, or  
8 who has separated from such service in the past year, and who  
9 certifies that during the two-year period immediately preceding  
10 the application for a driver's license, all of the following are  
11 true:

12 (1) The applicant has not had a driver's license, other than  
13 a military license.

14 (2) The applicant has maintained a clear driving record. For  
15 purposes of this subparagraph, "*clear driving record*" means the  
16 individual has not been identified as a candidate for suspension  
17 or revocation of a driver's license under the habitual violator  
18 or habitual offender provisions of the department's regulations;  
19 is not subject to a driver's license suspension, revocation,  
20 denial, cancellation, disqualification, or bar; and has no record  
21 of a conviction for a moving traffic violation determined to be  
22 the cause of a motor vehicle accident.

23 b. An applicant for a waiver under this subsection must  
24 certify and provide evidence as required by the department that  
25 all of the following apply:

26 (1) The applicant is regularly employed or was regularly  
27 employed within the past year in a military position requiring  
28 operation of a motor vehicle.

29 (2) The applicant was operating a motor vehicle  
30 representative of the class of motor vehicle the applicant  
31 expects to operate for at least two years immediately preceding  
32 honorable separation from military service as evidenced by the  
33 person's certificate of release or discharge from active duty,  
34 commonly referred to as a DD214.

35 c. An applicant who obtains a waiver under this subsection

1 shall successfully complete a screening of the applicant's  
2 eyesight, a test of the applicant's ability to read and  
3 understand highway signs regulating, warning, and directing  
4 traffic, and a test of the applicant's knowledge of the traffic  
5 laws of this state, as required under subsection 2. An applicant  
6 who obtains a waiver under this subsection is exempt from the  
7 driver education requirements under section 321.178.

8 EXPLANATION

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

11 Under current law, the effective date of a valid driver's  
12 license held by any person at the time of entering the military  
13 service of the United States or of the state of Iowa, or held by  
14 a family member living with such person, is generally extended  
15 without fee until six months following the initial separation  
16 from active duty, absent certain aggravating circumstances  
17 pursuant to Code section 321.198 (military service exception).

18 This bill authorizes the department of transportation (DOT) to  
19 issue a driver's license to a person who is on active duty in the  
20 military service, or who has separated from such service in the  
21 past year (military applicant), and who obtained a testing waiver  
22 under the bill.

23 The bill authorizes the DOT to waive the requirement that a  
24 military applicant actually demonstrate the ability to exercise  
25 ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor  
26 vehicle and other physical or mental examinations if the military  
27 applicant certifies that, during the two-year period immediately  
28 preceding the application for a driver's license, the military  
29 applicant held no other driver's license other than a military  
30 license, and that the applicant maintained a clear driving  
31 record, described in the bill. A military applicant must also  
32 certify and provide evidence of relevant employment in a military  
33 position requiring operation of a motor vehicle and that the  
34 military applicant has experience operating a motor vehicle  
35 representative of the class of motor vehicle the applicant

1 expects to operate for at least two years immediately preceding  
2 honorable separation from military service, as evidenced by the  
3 person's certificate of release or discharge from active duty,  
4 commonly referred to as a DD214. Similar provisions exist under  
5 current law for issuance of a commercial driver's license.

6 A military applicant must successfully complete an eyesight  
7 screening and tests on the ability to read and understand highway  
8 signs and knowledge of the traffic laws. A military applicant  
9 who obtains a waiver under the bill is exempt from the driver  
10 education requirements under Code section 321.178.

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