



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 283

LCO No. 1681



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES,
VETERANS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-102a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) Notwithstanding any provisions of the general statutes with
4 respect to annual or biennial license or registration fees or occupational
5 taxes, any resident of Connecticut on active duty with the armed forces
6 of the United States shall be exempt from the payment of such fees or
7 taxes during [his] such resident's period of active service and for one
8 year following the date of [his] such resident's honorable discharge [or
9 the date of his] from, or of such resident's release under honorable
10 conditions [,] from, such service.

11 (b) Any member of the armed forces of any state or of any reserve
12 component of the armed forces of the United States who has been called
13 to active service in the armed forces of any state of the United States
14 shall be exempt from the payment of any fine or late fee assessed for

15 failure to renew a motor vehicle operator's license or motor vehicle
16 registration or for failure to have emissions inspection performed in a
17 timely manner provided such member renews the license or registration
18 or has the member's vehicle inspected at an official emissions inspection
19 station no later than [~~sixty~~] ninety days following the date such member
20 is released from the qualifying military service.

21 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 14-41 of the 2026 supplement to the
22 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
23 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

24 (a) (1) An original motor vehicle operator's license shall expire within
25 a period not exceeding seven years following the date of the operator's
26 next birthday. [~~The~~] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this
27 subsection, the fee for such license shall be eighty-four dollars. Upon
28 renewal of a license, the commissioner may issue a license for a period
29 to be determined by the commissioner, provided such period does not
30 exceed eight years. The fee for the renewal of a license that expires eight
31 years from the date of issuance shall be ninety-six dollars. The
32 commissioner shall charge a prorated amount of such fee for a license
33 that expires less than eight years from the date of issuance.

34 (2) The commissioner shall waive the fee for an original motor vehicle
35 operator's license for any person who has been verified by the
36 Department of Veterans Affairs to be a veteran, as defined in section 14-
37 36h, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of section 14-
38 36h.

39 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 1-1h of the general statutes is repealed
40 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

41 (a) Any person who does not possess a valid motor vehicle operator's
42 license may apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles for an identity
43 card. The application for an identity card shall be accompanied by the
44 birth certificate of the applicant or a certificate of identification of the
45 applicant issued and authorized for such use by the Department of

46 Correction and a fee of twenty-eight dollars. Such application shall
 47 include: (1) The applicant's name; (2) the applicant's address; (3)
 48 whether the address is permanent or temporary; (4) the applicant's date
 49 of birth; (5) notice to the applicant that false statements on such
 50 application are punishable under section 53a-157b; and (6) such other
 51 pertinent information as the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles deems
 52 necessary. The applicant shall sign the application in the presence of an
 53 official of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The commissioner may
 54 waive the fee for any applicant (A) who has voluntarily surrendered
 55 such applicant's motor vehicle operator's license, (B) whose license has
 56 been refused by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision (4) of
 57 subsection (e) of section 14-36, or (C) [who is both a veteran, as defined
 58 in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and blind, as defined in subsection
 59 (a) of section 1-1f, or (D)] who is a resident of a homeless shelter or other
 60 facility for homeless persons or a certified homeless youth or certified
 61 homeless young adult. The commissioner shall waive the fee for any
 62 applicant who has been verified by the Department of Veterans Affairs
 63 to be a veteran, as defined in section 14-36h, in accordance with the
 64 provisions of subsection (e) of section 14-36h. The commissioner shall
 65 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
 66 establish the procedure and qualifications for the issuance of an identity
 67 card to any such homeless applicant. For the purposes of this subsection,
 68 "certified homeless youth" and "certified homeless young adult" have
 69 the same meanings as provided in section 7-36.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>October 1, 2026</i> | 27-102a |
| Sec. 2 | <i>October 1, 2026</i> | 14-41(a) |
| Sec. 3 | <i>October 1, 2026</i> | 1-1h(a) |

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) increase from sixty days to ninety days the grace period afforded to members of the armed forces, upon their return from service out of state, for the completion of certain motor vehicle-related renewals or

testing, and (2) waive the fee for original issuance of a motor vehicle operator's license or identity card in the case of any person whose veteran status is verified by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]