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BILL



ANALYSIS

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House Bill 4037 (Substitute H-2 as passed by the House)

(as enacted)

Sponsor: Representative Nancy E. Jenkins

House Committee: Military and Veterans Affairs

Senate Committee: Veterans, Military Affairs and Homeland Security

Date Completed: 3-11-13

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to do the following:

- **Require the Secretary of State (SOS) to include a person's status as a military veteran on his or her driver license, if the person requested the designation and he or she were a veteran and had not been dishonorably discharged.**
- **Require the SOS to obtain proof of discharge or separation of service to verify a person's status as a veteran.**
- **Require the SOS to consult with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) in determining the proof necessary to identify a person's veteran status.**
- **Allow the SOS to give information provided by an applicant to the DMVA and county veteran agencies in order to refer the applicant for eligibility for veterans' benefits.**

The bill would take effect on May 1, 2014.

The Code lists information that a driver license must contain, including such things as name, date of birth, and other identifying characteristics. Under the bill, a driver license also would have to include a designation that the licensee was a veteran, if requested by an individual who was a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, Michigan, or another state, other than a person who was dishonorably discharged. The veteran designation would have to be in a style and format that the SOS considered appropriate.

The SOS would have to require proof of discharge or separation of service, and the nature of that discharge, for the purpose of verifying a person's status as a veteran. The SOS would have to consult with the DMVA in determining the proof that would be required to identify a person's veteran status.

The SOS could give information provided by an applicant to the DMVA and county agencies that provide veteran services for the purpose of referral for veterans' benefits eligibility.

MCL 257.310

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would create a one-time cost to the Department of State of an estimated \$160,000 associated with reprogramming and modification of the Department's driver license/State ID production process. Additionally, assuming a 20% participation rate among eligible veterans, the Department estimates a cost of \$531,000 for staff, manufacturing, and mailing costs. This cost would be spread over a number of years and would ultimately depend on the number of veterans choosing to have the designation placed on their driver license.

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.