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BILL



ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 404 (as introduced 5-24-17)
Sponsor: Senator Margaret E. O'Brien
Committee: Veterans, Military Affairs and Homeland Security

Date Completed: 5-25-17

CONTENT

The bill would amend Public Act 222 of 1972, which provides for the issuance of an official State personal identification card, to require the Secretary of State (SOS) to waive the fee for the ID card for a veteran.

Generally, an applicant for a personal ID card must pay a \$10 fee to the SOS for each original or renewal ID card issued. The fee must be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the General Fund. The SOS must waive the fee if the applicant meets any of the following:

- Is 65 years of age or older.
- Has had his or her operator's or chauffeur's license suspended, revoked, or denied under the Michigan Vehicle Code.
- Presents evidence of statutory blindness.
- Presents other good cause for a fee waiver.
- Wishes to add or remove a heart insignia indicating his or her wish to participate in the anatomical gift donor registry.

Under the bill, the SOS also would have to waive the fee for an individual who was a veteran, as defined by Public Act 190 of 1965 (an individual who served in the United States Armed Forces, including the reserve components, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable).

The Secretary of State would have to require an individual seeking a fee waiver under the bill to provide the SOS with the same documentation required for a veteran designation on the personal ID card, before granting the waiver. (If requested by an individual who is a veteran, a personal ID card must include a designation that he or she is a veteran. In order to verify an individual's status as a veteran, the SOS must require proof of discharge or separation of service from the armed forces of Michigan, another state, or the United States, and the nature of that discharge.)

The bill would take effect 90 days after its enactment.

MCL 28.292

Legislative Analyst: Jeff Mann

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have an indeterminate, but negative fiscal impact on the amount of revenue received by the Department of State from the fees for Michigan veterans applying for or renewing a personal identification card.

According to the most recent data provided by the Department, there are an estimated 330,000 military veterans in Michigan under the age of 65. Current law already allows anyone age 65 or older to request a waiver from the renewal fee. Since identification cards must be renewed once every four years, it is assumed that an estimated 82,500 veterans under the age of 65 would be eligible for a renewal each year. Assuming that all 82,500 veterans requested a waiver of the \$10 fee, the potential loss in revenue to the Department of State would be an estimated \$825,000 in a given year. This is the estimated high end of the loss in revenue. The actual loss would be less. A number of veterans have a driver license and therefore do not need a State ID card, and others might already qualify for a fee waiver on different grounds.

The exact loss in revenue is indeterminate and dependent on the actual number of veterans under the age of 65 in the State who would seek a waiver of the original or renewal fee.

The bill would have no fiscal impact on local government.

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.