
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1131

AN ACT CONCERNING VETERANS' SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES AND DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR CERTAIN FORMER ARMED FORCES RESERVISTS.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes an eligible former reservist, or his or her surviving spouse, to get a veteran license plate and registration certificate. The bill also authorizes an eligible former reservist (but not a surviving spouse) to receive a veteran designation on his or her driver's license or identification card.

Under the bill, an eligible former reservist is any person part of the United States Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Air Force Reserve, or Air National Guard that was discharged (1) honorably, (2) under honorable conditions, or (3) with an "other than honorable" (OTH) discharge based on a qualifying condition (see BACKGROUND).

To receive these benefits, a former reservist or surviving spouse must submit a verification request and all available official documentation of the reservist's service to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Within 30 days after receiving the request, DVA must verify the service and, if the requestor is eligible, notify the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The reservist or spouse must also submit an application to DMV and pay any applicable fees.

The bill specifies that receiving these benefits and being verified by DVA does not establish proof of eligibility for any other veterans' benefit. It also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

BACKGROUND

Qualifying Condition

A qualifying condition is a (1) post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury diagnosis by a licensed health care professional at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facility, (2) military sexual trauma disclosed to such a health care professional, or (3) determination by the Eligibility Qualifying Review Board that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the OTH discharge (CGS § 27-103).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/07/2023)