



General Assembly
January Session, 2023

Substitute Bill No. 6875



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF AN IDENTITY CARD OR
MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENSE TO A PERSON BEING
DISCHARGED FROM A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 18-81ff of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) The Commissioners of Correction and Motor Vehicles shall [,
4 within available appropriations,] ensure that [an inmate] a person who
5 is incarcerated possesses [a state identification] an identity card issued
6 pursuant to section 1-1h or a motor vehicle operator's license issued
7 pursuant to chapter 246 at the time such [inmate] person is released
8 from a correctional facility after serving any part of a term of
9 imprisonment for a misdemeanor or felony conviction, [provided any
10 such inmate (1) requests and qualifies for such identification card or
11 license, and (2) pays any fee associated with obtaining such
12 identification card or license.] unless such person indicates, in writing,
13 on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Correction, that such
14 person does not wish to obtain such card or license.

15 (b) In order to effectuate the provisions of subsection (a) of this
16 section, at the time a person is committed to the custody of the
17 Commissioner of Correction, who, in consultation and collaboration
18 with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, shall ascertain (1) whether

19 the person has been issued a valid identity card pursuant to section 1-
20 1h or motor vehicle operator's license pursuant to chapter 246, and (2) if
21 such card or license has been issued, the date upon which such card or
22 license is to expire.

23 (c) For any person who is incarcerated who wishes to obtain an initial
24 identity card issued pursuant to section 1-1h or a motor vehicle
25 operator's license issued pursuant to chapter 246, or renew such card or
26 license, or obtain a duplicate card or license if the original card or license
27 has been lost, the Commissioner of Correction, in consultation and
28 collaboration with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, shall:

29 (1) (A) Not later than twenty-four months prior to the date on which
30 such person is to be discharged from the correctional facility, determine
31 the documentation such person requires to obtain such card or license;
32 and (B) facilitate the process that allows such person to expeditiously
33 obtain the required documentation by providing access to any forms,
34 fees, fee waivers, notary services, and mailing-related needs, to secure
35 the required documentation. For any person sentenced to a term of life
36 imprisonment, the Commissioner of Correction shall begin the process
37 described in this subdivision not later than twenty-four months prior to
38 the person's earliest date of eligibility for parole, and immediately begin
39 the process for any person whose sentence is reduced and the reduced
40 sentence results in a date of discharge within twenty-four months or
41 who is otherwise scheduled to be released with a date of discharge
42 within twenty-four months;

43 (2) Not later than thirteen months prior to the date on which such
44 person is to be discharged from the correctional facility, initiate a
45 process that allows such person to expeditiously obtain any additionally
46 required documentation or photographs by providing (A) access to any
47 forms, fees, fee waivers, notary services, and mailing-related needs, to
48 secure the required documentation, and (B) a means by which to obtain
49 the required photographs. For any person sentenced to a term of life
50 imprisonment, the Commissioner of Correction shall begin the process
51 described in this subdivision not later than thirteen months prior to the

52 person's earliest date of eligibility for parole, and immediately begin the
53 process for any person whose sentence is reduced and the reduced
54 sentence results in a date of discharge within thirteen months or who is
55 otherwise scheduled to be released with a date of discharge within
56 thirteen months; and

57 (3) Make any required licensing examination available to a person
58 seeking to obtain a motor vehicle operator's license issued pursuant to
59 chapter 246, except the provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to
60 any required road test administered by the Department of Motor
61 Vehicles.

62 (d) At the time a person is released from a correctional facility, the
63 Commissioner of Correction shall provide an identity card issued
64 pursuant to section 1-1h or a motor vehicle operator's license issued
65 pursuant to chapter 246 to any person who has successfully obtained
66 such card or license pursuant to the provisions of this section.

67 (e) Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
68 Commissioner of Correction shall report, in accordance with the
69 provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
70 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary
71 on:

72 (1) The total number of formerly incarcerated persons who were
73 issued original, renewal or duplicate identity cards pursuant to section
74 1-1h, and original, renewal or duplicate motor vehicle operator's
75 licenses issued pursuant to chapter 246, disaggregated by card and
76 license type, and licensing examinations disaggregated by license type;

77 (2) The total number of identification cards and motor vehicle
78 operator's licenses issued to such persons by each individual state
79 correctional facility; and

80 (3) Any issues encountered by the Department of Correction in
81 implementing the provisions of this section along with
82 recommendations for the resolution of such issues and any

83 recommended enhancements to the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	18-81ff

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (a), "a state identification card" was replaced with "an identity card" for accuracy; in Subsec. (b), "care and custody of the Department of Correction" was replaced with "custody of the Commissioner of Correction" for conformity with the general statutes; in Subsec. (c), language was clarified concerning persons being released earlier than the proposed timeline in Subdivs. (1) and (2); and in Subsec. (e), "to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary" was added for clarity.

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*