

By: Hefner

H.B. No. 1641

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of specially marked driver's licenses and personal identification certificates to disabled veterans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 521.011, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 521.011. SERVICES INFORMATION FOR VETERANS. The department and the Texas Veterans Commission shall jointly develop a one-page informational paper about veterans services provided by this state for veterans who receive:

(1) a driver's license with a designation under Section 521.1235; or

(2) a personal identification certificate with a ~~[veteran's]~~ designation under Section 521.102 ~~[a one-page informational paper about veterans services provided by this state]~~.

SECTION 2. Section 521.101(1), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) The application for the personal identification certificate must provide space for the applicant:

(1) to voluntarily list any information ~~[military service]~~ that may qualify the applicant to receive a personal identification certificate with a ~~[veteran's]~~ designation under Section 521.102; and

(2) to include proof required by the department to determine the applicant's eligibility to receive that designation.

SECTION 3. Section 521.102, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsections (b-1), (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

(a) In this section:

(1) "Disability rating" has the meaning assigned by Section 11.22, Tax Code.

(2) "Disabled veteran" and "veteran" have the meanings assigned by Section 521.1235 ~~[means a person who:~~

~~[(1) has served in:~~

~~[(A) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or marine corps of the United States; or~~

~~[(B) the Texas National Guard as defined by Section 431.001, Government Code; and~~

~~[(2) has been honorably discharged from the branch of the service in which the person served].~~

(b-1) If a disabled veteran provides proof sufficient to the department, the department, on request of the disabled veteran, shall include on a personal identification certificate issued to the disabled veteran in any available space on the face of the personal identification certificate or on the reverse side of the personal identification certificate:

(1) a disabled veteran designation; and

(2) the branch of the service in which the disabled veteran served.

(c) The department shall provide to the recipient of a

1 personal identification certificate with a [~~veteran's~~] designation  
2 under this section the informational paper described by Section  
3 521.011 at the time the certificate is issued.

4 (d) Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided by  
5 Subsection (e), for purposes of obtaining a service or benefit  
6 available for disabled veterans in this state, a disabled veteran  
7 may use a personal identification certificate described by  
8 Subsection (b-1) as satisfactory proof:

9 (1) that the disabled veteran has a disability rating  
10 described by Section 521.1235(a)(2)(A) or (B), as applicable; and

11 (2) of branch of service and honorable discharge.

12 (e) A personal identification certificate described by  
13 Subsection (b-1) is not satisfactory proof of the disabled  
14 veteran's disability rating for purposes of obtaining a property  
15 tax exemption provided by Chapter 11, Tax Code.

16 (f) A disabled veteran who renews a personal identification  
17 certificate described by Subsection (b-1) shall provide proof  
18 sufficient to the department of the disabled veteran's disability  
19 rating.

20 SECTION 4. Section 521.1235, Transportation Code, is  
21 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsections  
22 (b-1), (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

23 (a) In this section:

24 (1) "Disability rating" has the meaning assigned by  
25 Section 11.22, Tax Code.

26 (2) "Disabled veteran" means a veteran who has  
27 suffered a service-connected disability with a disability rating

1 of:

2 (A) at least 50 percent; or

3 (B) 40 percent if the rating is due to the  
4 amputation of a lower extremity.

5 (3) "Veteran" [~~,"veteran"~~] means a person who:

6 (A) [~~(1)~~] has served in:

7 (i) [~~(A)~~] the army, navy, air force, coast  
8 guard, or marine corps of the United States; or

9 (ii) [~~(B)~~] the Texas National Guard as  
10 defined by Section 437.001, Government Code; and

11 (B) [~~(2)~~] has been honorably discharged from the  
12 branch of the service in which the person served.

13 (b-1) If a disabled veteran provides proof sufficient to the  
14 department, the department, on request of the disabled veteran,  
15 shall include on a driver's license issued to the disabled veteran  
16 in any available space on the face of the driver's license or on the  
17 reverse side of the driver's license:

18 (1) a disabled veteran designation; and

19 (2) the branch of the service in which the disabled  
20 veteran served.

21 (c) The department shall provide to the recipient of a  
22 driver's license with a [~~veteran's~~] designation under this section  
23 the informational paper described by Section 521.011 at the time  
24 the license is issued.

25 (d) Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided by  
26 Subsection (e), for purposes of obtaining a service or benefit  
27 available for disabled veterans in this state, a disabled veteran

1 may use a driver's license described by Subsection (b-1) as  
2 satisfactory proof:

3 (1) that the disabled veteran has a disability rating  
4 described by Subsection (a)(2)(A) or (B), as applicable; and

5 (2) of branch of service and honorable discharge.

6 (e) A driver's license described by Subsection (b-1) is not  
7 satisfactory proof of the disabled veteran's disability rating for  
8 purposes of obtaining a property tax exemption provided by Chapter  
9 11, Tax Code.

10 (f) A disabled veteran who renews a driver's license  
11 described by Subsection (b-1) shall provide proof sufficient to the  
12 department of the disabled veteran's disability rating.

13 SECTION 5. Section 521.142(i), Transportation Code, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (i) The application must provide space for the applicant:

16 (1) to voluntarily list any information [~~military~~  
17 ~~service~~] that may qualify the applicant to receive a license with a  
18 [~~veteran's~~] designation under Section 521.1235; and

19 (2) to include proof required by the department to  
20 determine the applicant's eligibility to receive that designation.

21 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.