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(Original Signature of Member)

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AKIN (for himself and Mr. REYES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veteran’s I.D. Card
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. VETERANS IDENTIFICATION CARD.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Currently, veteran identification cards are
2 issued to veterans who have either completed the
3 statutory time-in-service requirement for retirement
4 from the Armed Forces or who have received a med-
5 ical-related discharge from the Armed Forces.

6 (2) A veteran who has served a minimum obli-
7 gated time in service, but who does not meet the cri-
8 teria described in paragraph (1), does not receive a
9 means of identifying the veteran's status as a vet-
10 eran other than using the official DD-214 discharge
11 papers of the veteran.

12 (3) Goods, services, and promotional activities
13 are often offered by public and private institutions
14 to veterans who demonstrate proof of service in the
15 military but it is impractical for a veteran to always
16 carry official DD-214 discharge papers to dem-
17 onstrate such proof.

18 (4) A general purpose veteran identification
19 card made available to a veteran who does not meet
20 the criteria described in paragraph (1) would be use-
21 ful to such veteran in order to demonstrate the sta-
22 tus of the veteran without having to carry and use
23 official DD-214 discharge papers.

24 (5) The Department of Veterans Affairs has
25 the infrastructure in place across the United States

1 to produce photographic identification cards and ac-
2 cept a small payment to cover the cost of these
3 cards.

4 (b) PROVISION OF VETERAN IDENTIFICATION
5 CARDS.—Chapter 57 of title 38, United States Code, is
6 amended by adding after section 5705 the following new
7 section:

8 **“§ 5706. Veterans identification card**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
10 fairs shall issue an identification card described in sub-
11 section (b) to any covered veteran who—

12 “(1) requests such card;

13 “(2) was discharged from the Armed Forces
14 under honorable conditions;

15 “(3) presents a copy of the DD–214 form or
16 other official document from the official military
17 personnel file of the veteran that describes the serv-
18 ice of the veteran; and

19 “(4) pays the fee under subsection (c)(1).

20 “(b) IDENTIFICATION CARD.—An identification card
21 described in this subsection is a card that—

22 “(1) displays a photograph of the covered vet-
23 eran;

24 “(2) displays the name of the covered veteran;

1 “(3) explains that such card is not proof of any
2 benefits to which the veteran is entitled to;

3 “(4) contains an identification number that is
4 not a social security number; and

5 “(5) serves as proof that such veteran—

6 “(A) honorably served in the Armed
7 Forces; and

8 “(B) has a DD-214 form or other official
9 document in the official military personnel file
10 of the veteran that describes the service of the
11 veteran.

12 “(c) COSTS OF CARD.—(1) The Secretary shall
13 charge a fee to each veteran who receives an identification
14 card issued under this section, including a replacement
15 identification card.

16 “(2)(A) The fee charged under paragraph (1) shall
17 equal an amount that the Secretary determines is nec-
18 essary to issue an identification card under this section.

19 “(B) In determining the amount of the fee under sub-
20 paragraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure that the total
21 amount of fees collected under paragraph (1) equals an
22 amount necessary to carry out this section, including costs
23 related to any additional equipment or personnel required
24 to carry out this section.

1 “(C) The Secretary shall review and reassess the de-
2 termination under subparagraph (A) during each five-year
3 period in which the Secretary issues an identification card
4 under this section.

5 “(3) Amounts collected under this subsection shall be
6 deposited in an account of the Department available to
7 carry out this section. Amounts so deposited shall be
8 merged with amounts in such account and shall be subject
9 to the same conditions and limitations as amounts other-
10 wise in such account.

11 “(d) EFFECT OF CARD ON BENEFITS.—(1) An iden-
12 tification card issued under this section shall not serve as
13 proof of any benefits that the veteran may be entitled to
14 under this title.

15 “(2) A covered veteran who is issued an identification
16 card under this section shall not be entitled to any benefits
17 under this title by reason of possessing such card.

18 “(e) ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES.—(1) The Sec-
19 retary shall ensure that any information collected or used
20 with respect to an identification card issued under this
21 section is appropriately secured.

22 “(2) The Secretary may determine any appropriate
23 procedures with respect to issuing a replacement identi-
24 fication card.

1 “(3) In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall
2 coordinate with the National Personnel Records Center.

3 “(4) The Secretary may conduct such outreach to ad-
4 vertise the identification card under this section as the
5 Secretary considers appropriate.

6 “(f) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
7 the term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who—

8 “(1) is not entitled to retired pay under chapter
9 1223 of title 10; and

10 “(2) is not enrolled in the system of patient en-
11 rollment under section 1705 of this title.”.

12 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
13 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
14 after the item relating to section 5705 the following new
15 item:

“5706. Veterans identification card.”.

16 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
17 this Act shall take effect on the date that is 60 days after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act.