

CONGRESSMAN TODD AKIN

THE VETERAN'S ID CARD ACT – H.R. 2985

Currently only veterans who served at least 20 years or have a service connected disability are able to get an ID card signifying their service from the Veterans Administration. The only option available for all other veterans is to carry a paper form called a DD-214 that contains various forms of personal data protected by the Privacy Act of 1974, including their social security number. All veterans should be provided the opportunity to obtain an identification card proving their prior military service.

The purpose of the Veteran's ID Card Act is to:

- Provide proof of military service for those who currently have no simple means to do so;
- Minimize the potential of identity theft through the potential loss or theft of a form DD-214;
- Provide employers looking to hire veterans a standard way to verify an employee's military service; and
- Provide military veterans the ability to take part in the goods, services or promotional opportunities that are offered to those who are able to provide proof of military service.

In order to ensure that this legislation has minimal impact on the Veterans Administration and can be done in a budget neutral way, this legislation:

- Requires a veteran who seeks to obtain this ID card to pay for the initial and any subsequent replacement cards;
- Requires the VA to determine the cost of such a card and apply a fee to the card appropriately to cover all costs;
- Uses the equipment already in place at VA facilities across the country to issue the card and collect payment;
- Requires the Secretary of the VA to review and assess costs every 5 years and change the fee structure appropriately to cover all ID costs under this bill.

Veterans need another form of identification other than the antiquated form DD-214 issued by the military upon discharge. By providing veterans this option they will have at their disposal a more rugged and safer form of identification to prove their military service. This bill will be no-cost to the US government.

For more information or to cosponsor this bill, please contact Jason Knapp or Justin Johnson in Congressman Akin's office.

Veteran's ID Card Act - Frequently Asked Questions

- **Which veterans currently can get an ID card proving their military service?**
 - Veterans who are entitled to either retirement benefits or medical care (or both) from the VA currently receive a photo ID card from the VA.
- **How much will one of these cards cost a veteran?**
 - The actual cost will be set by the Secretary of the VA, however it should be minimal. According to the Congressional Research Service, in fiscal year 2010 the VA produced 848,958 identification cards for veterans at an average cost (including mailing) of \$1.64 per card.
- **Will this card guarantee any benefits to the veteran?**
 - No. This card will only be used to confirm that an individual did serve in the armed forces.