**South Carolina General Assembly**

119th Session, 2011-2012

**A147, R166, S710**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Knotts, O'Dell, Ford, Alexander, Bryant and Setzler

Document Path: l:\council\bills\ggs\22061zw11.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3760, 4751

Introduced in the Senate on March 17, 2011

Introduced in the House on February 22, 2012

Last Amended on March 29, 2012

Passed by the General Assembly on April 18, 2012

Governor's Action: April 23, 2012, Signed

Summary: Veteran status designation on driver's license

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

3/17/2011 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 8](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\03-17-11.docx))

3/17/2011 Senate Referred to Committee on **Transportation** ([Senate Journal‑page 8](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2011\03-17-11.docx))

2/15/2012 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Transportation** ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\02-15-12.docx))

2/16/2012 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\02-16-12.docx))

2/16/2012 Senate Roll call Ayes‑42 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\02-16-12.docx))

2/21/2012 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 17](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\02-21-12.docx))

2/22/2012 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\02-22-12.docx))

2/22/2012 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\02-22-12.docx))

3/13/2012 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 4](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\03-13-12.docx))

3/21/2012 House Debate adjourned until Thur., 03‑22‑12 ([House Journal‑page 80](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\03-21-12.docx))

3/22/2012 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 26](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\03-22-12.docx))

3/22/2012 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 26](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\03-22-12.docx))

3/22/2012 House Roll call Yeas‑106 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 30](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\03-22-12.docx))

3/22/2012 House Unanimous consent for third reading on next legislative day ([House Journal‑page 31](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\03-22-12.docx))

3/23/2012 House Read third time and returned to Senate with amendments ([House Journal‑page 2](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\03-23-12.docx))

3/29/2012 Senate House amendment amended ([Senate Journal‑page 50](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\03-29-12.docx))

3/29/2012 Senate Returned to House with amendments ([Senate Journal‑page 50](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\03-29-12.docx))

3/30/2012 Scrivener's error corrected

4/18/2012 House Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 33](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\04-18-12.docx))

4/18/2012 House Roll call Yeas‑108 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 33](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\04-18-12.docx))

4/19/2012 Ratified R 166

4/23/2012 Signed By Governor

4/25/2012 Effective date 04/23/12

5/7/2012 Act No. 147

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[3/17/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\710_20110317.docx)

[2/15/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\710_20120215.docx)

[3/13/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\710_20120313.docx)

[3/22/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\710_20120322.docx)

[3/29/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\710_20120329.docx)

[3/30/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\710_20120330.docx)

(A147, R166, S710)

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 56‑1‑140, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE AND CONTENTS OF A SOUTH CAROLINA DRIVER’S LICENSE, SO AS TO, UPON THE LICENSEE’S REQUEST AND PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY, INCLUDE A VETERAN STATUS DESIGNATION ON THE DRIVER’S LICENSE; TO AMEND SECTION 56‑1‑3350, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS, SO AS TO, UPON THE CARD HOLDER’S REQUEST AND PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY, INCLUDE A VETERAN STATUS DESIGNATION ON THE SPECIAL IDENTIFICATION CARD; BY ADDING SECTION 56‑1‑205 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT, UPON PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY, AN APPLICANT FOR A SOUTH CAROLINA DRIVER’S LICENSE MAY HAVE A NOTATION PLACED ON HIS DRIVER’S LICENSE THAT THE APPLICANT IS HEARING IMPAIRED; AND BY ADDING SECTION 56‑3‑1920 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT, UPON PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY, A HEARING IMPAIRED DRIVER MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR A HEARING IMPAIRED IDENTIFICATION PLACARD.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

**Driver’s license veterans designations and fees**

SECTION 1. Section 56‑1‑140 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 176 of 2005, is further amended to read:

“Section 56‑1‑140. (A) Upon payment of a fee of twelve dollars and fifty cents for a license that is valid for five years, or twenty‑five dollars for a license that is valid for ten years, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall issue to every qualified applicant a driver’s license as applied for by law. The license must bear on it a distinguishing number assigned to the licensee, the full name, date of birth, residence address, a brief description and laminated colored photograph of the licensee, and a facsimile of the signature of the licensee, or a space upon which the licensee shall write his usual signature with pen and ink immediately upon receipt of the license. No license is valid until it has been so signed by the licensee. The license authorizes the licensee to operate only those classifications of vehicles as indicated on the license.

(B) An applicant for a new, renewed, or replacement South Carolina driver’s license may apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a veteran designation on the front of his driver’s license by providing:

(1) a United States Department of Defense discharge certificate, also known as a DD Form 214, that shows a characterization of service, or discharge status of ‘honorable’ or ‘general under honorable conditions’ and establishes the person’s qualifying military service in the United States Armed Forces; and

(2) payment of a one dollar fee that must be retained by the department.

The Department of Motor Vehicles may determine the appropriate form of the veteran designation on the driver’s license authorized pursuant to this section.

(C) The fees collected pursuant to this section must be credited to the Department of Transportation State Non-Federal Aid Highway Fund.”

**Identification card veterans designations and fees**

SECTION 2. Section 56‑1‑3350 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 27 of 2011, is further amended to read:

“Section 56‑1‑3350. (A) Upon application by a person five years of age or older, who is a resident of South Carolina, the department shall issue a special identification card as long as the:

(1) application is made on a form approved and furnished by the department; and

(2) applicant presents to the person issuing the identification card a birth certificate or other evidence acceptable to the department of his name and date of birth.

(B) An applicant for a new, renewed, or replacement South Carolina driver’s license may apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a veteran designation on the front of his driver’s license by providing a:

(1) United States Department of Defense discharge certificate, also known as a DD Form 214, that shows a characterization of service, or discharge status of ‘honorable’ or ‘general under honorable conditions’ and establishes the person’s qualifying military service in the United States Armed Forces; and

(2) payment of a one dollar fee that must be retained by the department.

(C)(1) The fee for the issuance of the special identification card is five dollars for a person between the ages of five and sixteen years.

(2) An identification card must be free to a person aged seventeen years or older.

(D) The identification card expires five years from the date of issuance.

(E) Special identification cards issued to persons under the age of twenty‑one must be marked, stamped, or printed to readily indicate that the person to whom the card is issued is under the age of twenty‑one.

(F) The fees collected pursuant to this section must be credited to the Department of Transportation State Non‑Federal Aid Highway Fund.”

**Hearing impaired designations on driver’s licenses and placards**

SECTION 3. A. Article 1, Chapter 1, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56‑1‑205. An applicant for the issuance or renewal of a driver’s license may request that a notation be placed on the license indicating that the applicant is hearing impaired.

The department shall place the notation on the driver’s license if requested by the applicant and if the applicant provides an original certificate from a licensed physician, as defined in Section 40‑47‑5, that the applicant has a permanent, uncorrectable hearing loss of forty decibels or more in one or both ears.

This section shall apply to a driver’s license issued after 2012.”

B. Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56‑3‑1920. (A) An identification placard must be issued to a hearing impaired licensed driver upon application. The application is to be on a form prescribed by the department and may be made in person or by mail. The application must include an original certificate from a licensed physician, as defined in Section 40‑47‑5, that the applicant has a permanent, uncorrectable hearing loss of forty decibels or more in one or both ears. No licensed applicant may be denied a placard if the completed application includes an original certificate from a licensed physician. The placard shall expire on the licensee’s birth date of the fifth calendar year after the calendar year in which a hearing impaired driver is issued a license.

(B) The placard must be rectangular in shape, approximately the same size as an average motor vehicle sun visor, as determined by the department, to enable it to be attached to a sun visor in a motor vehicle. The department shall determine the shape, size preferred, and manner in which a hearing impaired motorcycle operator is to carry or display the placard. The placard must contain the heading ‘Hearing Impaired Driver’ in boldface type and the name, signature, and driver’s license number of the hearing impaired person along with an explanation of appropriate use if the hearing impaired driver is stopped by a law enforcement officer while driving.

(C) A fee not to exceed five dollars may be charged to each applicant issued a placard in accordance with this section. These fees may be retained by the department to offset the cost of providing these placards.”

**Time effective**

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 19th day of April, 2012.

Approved the 23rd day of April, 2012.

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