



# STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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BARBARA J. FIALA  
Commissioner

"P" 22 (2013)

"M" 15 (2013)

Albany, New York

October 3, 2013

TO: All Enforcement Agencies and Magistrates

SUBJECT: Chapter 487 of the Laws of 2012 – Veteran Status

Effective October 3, 2013, any person who was a member of the armed forces and was honorably discharged may request to have a "Veteran Status" notation printed on the upper left hand of his or her New York State driver's license or non-driver identification card.

A copy of Chapter 487 and a sample photo document is attached for your reference. Please share this information with appropriate staff. Thank you.



Barbara J. Fiala  
Commissioner

Attachment

LAWS OF NEW YORK, 2012

CHAPTER 487

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to forms of identification cards and licenses of veterans

Became a law October 3, 2012, with the approval of the Governor.

Passed by a majority vote, three-fifths being present.

**The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:**

Section 1. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) and paragraph (b) of subdivision 3 of section 490 of the vehicle and traffic law, subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) as amended by chapter 235 of the laws of 2002, and paragraph (b) as amended by chapter 600 of the laws of 1989, are amended to read as follows:

(i) The commissioner shall upon submission of an appropriate application, upon payment of the prescribed fee, and upon being satisfied that the person described is the applicant and that such applicant meets the requirements set forth in subdivision two of this section, issue to such applicant a nontransferable identification card. In addition, the commissioner also shall require that an applicant for an identification card or renewal thereof provide his or her social security number. **The commissioner shall provide space so that an applicant may request a notation upon such identification card that he or she is a veteran of the United States armed forces.**

(b) The identification card shall contain a distinguishing number or mark and adequate space upon which an anatomical gift, pursuant to article forty-three of the public health law, by the holder may be recorded and shall contain such other information and shall be issued in such form as the commissioner shall determine; provided, however, every identification card or renewal thereof issued to a person under the age of twenty-one years shall have prominently imprinted thereon the statement "UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE" in notably distinctive print or format. **Provided, further, however, that every identification card issued to an applicant who was a member of the armed forces of the United States and received on honorable discharge or was released therefrom under honorable conditions shall, upon his or her request and submission of proof as set forth herein, contain a distinguishing mark, in such form as the commissioner shall determine, indicating that he or she is a veteran. Such proof shall consist of a certificate of release or discharge from active duty including but not limited to a DD Form 214 or other proof satisfactory to the commissioner.** The commissioner shall not require fees for the issuance of such identification cards or renewals thereof to persons under twenty-one years of age which are different from the fees required for the issuance of identification cards or renewals thereof to persons twenty-one years of age or over, **nor fees to persons requesting a veteran notation which are different from fees that would otherwise be required.**

EXPLANATION--Matter in **italics** is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by section 2 of part CC of chapter 58 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

1. Application for license. Application for a driver's license shall be made to the commissioner. The fee prescribed by law may be submitted with such application. The applicant shall furnish such proof of identity, age, and fitness as may be required by the commissioner. The commissioner may also provide that the application procedure shall include the taking of a photo image or images of the applicant in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the commissioner. In addition, the commissioner also shall require that the applicant provide his or her social security number and provide space on the application so that the applicant may register in the New York state organ and tissue donor registry under section forty-three hundred ten of the public health law, and space so that the applicant may request a notation upon such license that he or she is a veteran of the United States armed forces. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's license who will operate a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce shall certify that such applicant meets the requirements to operate a commercial motor vehicle, as set forth in public law 99-570, title XII, and title 49 of the code of federal regulations, and all regulations promulgated by the United States secretary of transportation under the hazardous materials transportation act. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's license shall submit a medical certificate at such intervals as required by the federal motor carrier safety improvement act of 1999 and Part 383.71(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations relating to medical certification and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. For purposes of this section and sections five hundred three and five hundred ten-a of this title, the term "medical certificate" shall mean a form substantially in compliance with the form set forth in Part 391.43(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations. Upon a determination that the holder of a commercial driver's license has made any false statement, with respect to the application for such license, the commissioner shall revoke such license.

§ 3. Subdivision 1 of section 504 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new paragraph (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) Every license or renewal thereof issued to an applicant who was a member of the armed forces of the United States and received an honorable discharge or was released therefrom under honorable conditions shall, upon his or her request and submission of proof as set forth herein, contain a distinguishing mark, in such form as the commissioner shall determine, indicating that he or she is a veteran. Such proof shall consist of a certificate of release or discharge from active duty including but not limited to a DD Form 214 or other proof satisfactory to the commissioner. The commissioner shall not require fees for the issuance of such licenses or renewals thereof to persons requesting a veteran notation which is different from fees otherwise required.

§ 4. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.