

By: Farabee

H.B. No. 2849

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating an identification card for veterans.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 434.019 to read as follows:

Sec. 434.019. MILITARY VETERAN IDENTIFICATION CARDS. (a)

In this section:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Veterans Commission.

(2) "Veteran" means a person who:

(A) has served in:

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

(ii) the state military forces as defined by Section 431.001; and

(B) has been honorably discharged from the branch of the service in which the person served.

(b) The commission shall issue an identification card to each veteran in the state who:

(1) applies for an identification card; and

(2) provides proof of the person's military service as described by Subsection (a)(2), including proof of the veteran's honorable discharge.

(c) The identification card must include:

(1) the full name of the veteran;

1 (2) a photograph of the veteran consistent with the
2 veteran's appearance;

3 (3) the branch of the armed forces in which the veteran
4 served;

5 (4) the signature of the executive director of the
6 Texas Veterans Commission;

7 (5) a brief description of the veteran, including the
8 veteran's height, weight, and eye color;

9 (6) the thumbprint of the veteran or a bar code with a
10 unique identification label for the veteran;

11 (7) the date the card was issued to the veteran; and

12 (8) a phone number operational 24 hours a day, seven
13 days a week that a person may call to verify the validity of the
14 identification card.

15 (d) On the identification card, the commission shall print:

16 (1) "State of Texas" and the state seal; and

17 (2) "This identification card certifies that (insert
18 name of veteran) is an honorably discharged veteran who served in
19 the armed forces."

20 (e) An identification card issued under this section
21 expires on a date specified by the commission.

22 (f) An identification card issued under this section must
23 be, to the extent practicable, tamper-proof.

24 (g) If an identification card issued under this section is
25 lost or stolen, the commission may:

26 (1) require a veteran to submit an affidavit executed
27 by the veteran that the identification card was lost or stolen; and

1 (2) issue a duplicate identification card to the
2 veteran.

3 (h) The commission may adopt rules to administer this
4 section.

5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.