

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 91, With An Amendment**  
**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 91

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2015

Mr. BUCHANAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## 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                   “(A) merged with amounts in such account;

9                   “(B) available in such amounts as may be pro-  
10 vided in appropriation Acts; and

11                   “(C) subject to the same conditions and limita-  
12 tions as amounts otherwise in such account.

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

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

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

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

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

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

9           “(f) CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall not be con-  
10 strued to affect identification cards otherwise provided by  
11 the Secretary to veterans enrolled in the health care sys-  
12 tem established under section 1705(a) of this title.

13           “(g) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,  
14 the term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who—

15                   “(1) is not entitled to retired pay under chapter  
16 1223 of title 10; and

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

19           “(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
20 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
21 after the item relating to section 5705 the following new  
22 item:

          “5706. Veterans identification card.”.

23           “(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
24 this Act shall take effect on the date that is 60 days after  
25 the date of the enactment of this Act.