

[Floor Situation](#) | [Summary](#) | [Background](#) | [Cost](#) | [Staff Contact](#)

[H.R. 91, Veteran's I.D. Card Act, as amended](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Monday, May 18, 2015, the House will consider [H.R. 91](#), *the Veteran's I.D. Card Act*, under suspension of the rules. H.R. 91 was introduced on January 6, 2015, by Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUMMARY

H.R. 91 requires the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to issue an identification card to certain veterans who: request the card, received an honorable discharge from the Armed Forces; present a copy of the DD-214 form or other official document demonstrating such service; and, who pay a fee needed to cover the cost of the card.

The identification card must include the name and picture of the veteran, an identification number that is not a Social Security number, and must explain that the card is not proof of any benefit to which the bearer is entitled. The card will serve as proof that the veteran served honorably in the Armed Forces and has appropriate documentation describing such service.

The VA Secretary shall determine the fee for each card (including replacements) in an amount equal to that necessary to issue an identification card under the provisions of the bill. The bill requires the Secretary to review and assess costs every five years and change the fee structure appropriately to cover all ID costs under the bill.

The bill's provisions take effect 60 days after enactment.

BACKGROUND

Currently, the VA only offers ID cards to those who have served at least 20 years in the Armed Forces or those who receive medical care for a service-connected disability. This leaves a large population of veterans who have served honorably with no easy way to prove their military service. Under current law, veterans who do not qualify for a VA-issued ID card must carry around a paper DD-214 document to prove their veteran status. This form includes sensitive personal information including Social Security numbers and service details that put veterans at needless risk for identity

theft. H.R. 91 is designed to minimize this threat and provide employers looking to hire veterans with an easier way to verify an employee's military service.¹

COST

A cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is currently unavailable.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [Jerry White](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 5-0190.

¹ See Rep. Buchanan Press Release—“[Rep. Buchanan introduces Veteran’s ID Card Act](#),” April; 9, 2015.