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H.B. 29*
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Wiggam and A. Miller

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SUMMARY

- Authorizes counties that establish a veterans' identification card program to issue veterans identification cards to individuals who have served with the "uniformed services," including the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- Requires a county recorder, upon request, to record the discharge record of any discharged member of the uniformed services.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

County issued veterans identification cards and recording of discharge records

The bill establishes, for purposes of County Veterans Identification Card Law, a definition for uniformed services (see "**Definition**," below) that includes the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.¹ Under current law, a board of county commissioners may allow the county recorder or county veterans service office to issue an Ohio veterans identification card to an individual who presents an armed forces discharge record, provides two forms of current and valid identification, and pays a fee if a fee has been established.² The bill modifies this authorization to require counties, that issue veterans identification cards, to do so for individuals who present discharge records from any of the uniformed services.

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 317.241(J).

² R.C. 317.241(A).

Furthermore, the bill requires a county auditor, upon request, to record the discharge record of a discharged member of the uniformed services. Under current law, a county recorder must do so for a discharged member of the armed forces of the United States.³

As a result, under the bill, former members of the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, can record their discharge records with a county recorder and are eligible for an Ohio veterans identification card.

Definition

Under the bill, “uniformed services” means the armed forces of the United States (the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard, the national guard of any state, or any other reserve components of those forces), the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, or any reserve components of those forces, and such other service as may be designated by Congress.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-03-21
Reported, H. Armed Services & Veterans Affairs	---

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³ R.C. 317.24.

⁴ R.C. 317.24(A)(4) and (5).