

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2025

H. B. 24- **23**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 9 CMC § 2116 to update the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” and to allow a valid Veteran ID Card to be used as proof of veteran status when applying for a veteran’s license plate.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24TH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the current
2 requirements for obtaining a Veterans License Plate should be amended to provide
3 veterans with additional options for proving their eligibility. While the DD214
4 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) has been the primary
5 document for verification, many veterans now possess a Veteran ID Card (VIC)
6 issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Since obtaining a VIC requires
7 a DD214, the VIC serves as official proof of veteran status and should be accepted
8 as an alternative form of veteran status verification in certain contexts. In particular,
9 the Legislature finds that the VIC should be accepted as an alternative form of
10 verification in the context of applying for a Veterans License Plate in the CNMI.

1 This bill also updates the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” to
2 explicitly include individuals who served in a reserve component of any branch of
3 the United States Armed Forces. Additionally, it removes the specific listing of
4 each military branch in favor of a broader reference to the Armed Forces. This
5 change ensures the law remains adaptable by allowing for the seamless inclusion
6 of newly established branches, such as the United States Space Force, without
7 requiring future legislative amendments.

8 Thus, based on the foregoing, the purpose of this Act is to amend 9 CMC
9 § 2116 to update the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” and to allow
10 valid VICs be used as proof of veteran status when applying for a veteran’s license
11 plate. This amendment ensures that eligible veterans can more easily access the
12 benefits and recognition they deserve.

13 **Section 2. Amendment.** Sections 2116(a) and 2116(b)(1) of Chapter 1,
14 Division 2, Title 9 of the Commonwealth Code are hereby amended, with all other
15 provisions remaining unchanged and in full force and effect, as follows:

16 **“§ 2116. Veteran or Disabled Veteran License Plates.**

17 (a) Definition.

18 (1) For purposes of this Act, the term “veteran” means a person who
19 served ~~in active duty in the United States military service in the~~
20 ~~Army, Navy, Marine Corp, Coast Guard, Air National Guard, or~~
21 ~~active reserve component of the Army, Air Force, or Navy, on active~~

1 duty or in a reserve component of any branch of the United States
2 Armed Forces and who was discharged or released under conditions
3 other than dishonorable.

4 (2) "Disabled Veteran" means a person who served ~~in active duty in the~~
5 ~~United States military service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corp,~~
6 ~~Coast Guard, Air National Guard, or active reserve component of~~
7 ~~the Army, Air Force, or Navy, on active duty or in a reserve~~
8 component of any branch of the United States Armed Forces and
9 who was discharged or released under conditions other than
10 dishonorable and certified as having at least 10% disability due to
11 service-related injury.

12 (b) Application.

13 (1) In lieu of the license plates contracted on behalf of the Bureau of
14 Motor Vehicles, in order to qualify for a veteran's license or disabled
15 veteran's license plate the applicant must submit the following along
16 with the application for vehicle registration:

17 (i) ~~Copy~~ A copy of the Certificate of Release or Discharge from
18 Active Duty from the Department of Defense (DD214); or, if a
19 DD214 is not available, one of the following:

20 ~~(ii)(A)~~ For individuals ~~Individuals~~ otherwise qualified under
21 subsection (a)(1); ~~of this section shall obtain~~

1 (1) A certification from the Military and Veterans Affairs
2 Office, ~~provided that he/she produces documents, if~~
3 ~~DD214 is not available, which~~ based on
4 documentation submitted by the applicant to the
5 Military and Veterans Affairs Office that proves
6 ~~signifies proof that he/she served in the U.S. military~~
7 services; or

8 (2) A valid Veteran Identification Card issued by the
9 United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

10 ~~(iii)(B) For individuals~~ Individuals otherwise qualified under
11 subsection (a)(2); ~~shall obtain~~

12 (1) A certification from the Military and Veterans Affairs
13 Office, ~~provided that he/she produces documents, if~~
14 ~~DD214 is not available, which~~ based on
15 documentation submitted by the applicant to the
16 Military and Veterans Affairs Office that proves
17 ~~signifies proof that he/she has at least 10% disability~~
18 due to service-related injury.”


19 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
20 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
21 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its


1 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
2 shall not be affected thereby.

3 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
4 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
5 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
6 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
7 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
8 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
9 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

10 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
11 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 4/16/2025

Date: _____ Introduced by:  _____
Rep. Julie M. A. Ogo

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel

Date: 4/15/25