

By: Senator(s) Seymour, Barnett, Butler,
Jackson (11th)

To: Veterans and Military
Affairs; Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2294
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-1-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE A VETERAN TO ESTABLISH PROOF OF MILITARY SERVICE FOR
3 VETERAN DRIVER'S LICENSE DESIGNATION IN PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT
4 OF PUBLIC SAFETY DRIVER'S LICENSE STATION; TO AMEND SECTION
5 97-19-85, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE CRIMINAL PENALTIES
6 FOR SUBMITTING FALSE DOCUMENTS TO OBTAIN A VETERAN DRIVER'S
7 LICENSE OR OTHER VETERAN'S BENEFITS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-1-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 63-1-35. (1) The Commissioner of Public Safety shall
12 prescribe the form of license issued pursuant to this article
13 which shall, among other features, include a driver's license
14 number assigned by the Department of Public Safety. A licensee
15 shall list his social security number with the department which
16 shall cross reference the social security number with the driver's
17 license number for purposes of identification. Additionally, each
18 license shall bear a full-face color photograph of the licensee in
19 such form that the license and the photograph cannot be separated.
20 The photograph shall be taken so that one (1) exposure will



21 photograph the applicant and the application simultaneously on the
22 same film. The department shall use a process in the issuance of
23 a license with a color photograph that shall prevent as nearly as
24 possible any alteration, counterfeiting, duplication,
25 reproduction, forging or modification of the license or the
26 superimposition of a photograph without ready detection. The
27 photograph shall be replaced by the department at the time of
28 renewal. Drivers' licenses, including photographs appearing
29 thereon, may be renewed by electronic means according to rules and
30 regulations promulgated by the commissioner in conformity to
31 Section 27-104-33.

32 (2) The commissioner shall prescribe the form of license
33 issued pursuant to this article to licensees who are not United
34 States citizens and who do not possess a social security number
35 issued by the United States government. The license of such
36 persons shall include a number and/or other identifying features.

37 (3) Any new, renewal or duplicate driver's license,
38 temporary driving permit, intermediate license or commercial
39 driver's license issued to a person required to register as a sex
40 offender pursuant to Section 45-33-25 shall bear a designation
41 identifying the licensee or permittee as a sex offender.

42 (4) The commissioner is authorized to provide the new,
43 renewal or duplicate driver's license, temporary driving permit,
44 intermediate license or commercial driver's license to any
45 honorably discharged veteran as defined in Title 38 of the United



States Code, and such license or permit shall exhibit the letters "Vet" or any other mark identifying the person as a veteran. The veteran requesting the "Vet" designation shall present his DD-214 * * *, Military Retiree Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans Affairs Identification Card or National Guard Form NGB 22. The veteran requesting the "Vet" designation may present his DD-214, Military Retiree Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans Affairs Identification Card or National Guard Form NGB 22 in person at the Mississippi Department of Public Safety Driver's License Station.

(5) Not later than July 1, 2021, the commissioner shall develop and implement a driver's license or driving permit in electronic format as an additional option for license or permit holders. Acceptable electronic formats include display of electronic images on a cellular phone or any other type of electronic device.

(6) If false documents are provided by an individual for purposes of obtaining a veteran driver's license, such action shall be considered fraudulent use of identity under Section 97-19-85, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be punishable, upon conviction, as a felony pursuant to the provisions of that section.



71 **SECTION 2.** Section 97-19-85, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
72 amended as follows:

73 97-19-85. (1) Any person who shall make or cause to be made
74 any false statement or representation as to his or another
75 person's or entity's identity, social security account number,
76 credit card number, debit card number, DD-214 or other identifying
77 information for the purpose of fraudulently obtaining or with the
78 intent to obtain goods, services or any thing of value, shall be
79 guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, for a first
80 offense shall be fined not more than Five Thousand Dollars
81 (\$5,000.00) or imprisoned for a term not to exceed five (5) years,
82 or both. For a second or subsequent offense such person, upon
83 conviction, shall be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars
84 (\$10,000.00) or imprisoned for a term not to exceed ten (10)
85 years, or both. In addition to the fines and imprisonment
86 provided in this section, a person convicted under this section
87 shall be ordered to pay restitution as provided in Section 99-37-1
88 et seq.

89 (2) A person is guilty of fraud under subsection (1) who:

90 (a) Shall furnish false information willfully,
91 knowingly and with intent to deceive anyone as to his true
92 identity or the true identity of another person; or

93 (b) Willfully, knowingly, and with intent to deceive,
94 uses a social security account number to establish and maintain
95 business or other records; or



96 (c) With intent to deceive, falsely represents a number
97 to be the social security account number assigned to him or
98 another person, when in fact the number is not the social security
99 account number assigned to him or such other person; or

100 (d) With intent to deceive, falsely represents to be a
101 representative of an entity in order to open banking accounts,
102 obtain credit cards, or other services and supplies in the
103 entity's name; or

104 (e) Knowingly alters a social security card, buys or
105 sells a social security card or counterfeit or altered social
106 security card, counterfeits a social security card, or possesses a
107 social security card or counterfeit social security card with
108 intent to sell or alter it * * *; or

109 (f) Willfully and knowingly, with intent to deceive,
110 falsely uses a form DD-214, Military Retiree Identification Card,
111 United States Department of Veterans Affairs Medical
112 Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans Affairs
113 Identification Card or National Guard Form NGB 22, for the purpose
114 of fraudulently obtaining a veterans driver's license or any other
115 state or federal government benefit available only to honorably
116 discharged veterans.

117 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
118 and after July 1, 2021.

