

Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo #16-01
Veteran Designation

DATE: June 28, 2016

FROM: Mindi Nguyen, Administrative Assistant to Director, MVD

TO: All Driver Services staff and Iowa County Treasurers performing driver's license functions

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains legislation passed in 2016 (Senate File 2187) that expands the circumstances in which a veteran may apply for a veteran designation on an identification card (ID) or driver's license (DL).

SUMMARY

Expands the way a veteran can apply for a veteran designation, allowing for a veteran to bring a DD214 directly to the state or county issuance site in lieu of the current process, in application for a veteran designation on an ID or DL. **This legislation is effective July 1, 2016.**

LINK TO LEGISLATION

Iowa Acts, 2016, SF 2187, Section 1. Section 321.189, subsection 8:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=86&ba=SF2187>

CURRENT

In order to obtain a veteran designation on an ID or DL, a veteran must first visit their local Veterans Affairs (VA) office and present a copy of their DD214 or applicable discharge document to the local county VA office. The local county VA office confirms veteran status and completes the required Iowa DOT application form. The veteran then presents the completed and approved form at a state or county issuance site where the veteran designation will be added to the ID or DL upon issuance.

NEW

Allows a honorably discharged veteran to directly bring their DD214 to a state or county issuance site in lieu of the VA approved veteran designation form, in application for a veteran designation on an ID or DL.

RESOLUTION

Legislation provides for the Department (DOT) to prepare for training and accuracy in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, prior to accepting the DD214 at issuance sites.

RESULT

The Iowa DOT will not implement the acceptance of a DD214 until training and guidelines are in effect, ensuring accuracy. The proposed implementation date is 8/1/2016.

HELPFUL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers provide additional information that will be helpful to you and to customers.

WILL THEY STILL HAVE THE OPTION TO GO TO THE VA?

Yes. The new change just allows a veteran an additional way to apply for the veteran designation. Once implemented, the veteran will have the expanded option of directly bringing us their DD214 in lieu of going to the VA office.

DID THE FEE CHANGE TO GET A VETERAN DESIGNATION?

No. The renewal and duplicate fees remain the same.

DID THE VETERAN DESIGNATION CHANGE?

No. The designation change and determination for eligibility remain the same. The change simply allows a veteran the option of either bringing us their DD214 for review or seeing their VA officer, as with the current process.

DO I NEED TO ADVISE THE VA OR A COUNTY OFFICER WHEN I ACCEPT A DD214 AND ISSUE A VETERAN DESIGNATION?

No. The Iowa DOT will be responsible for sending an electronic file.

WHEN WILL WE IMPLEMENT THE ACCEPTANCE OF A DD214 FOR VETERAN DESIGNATION?

The expected implementation date is 8/1/2016. The reason for the future implementation date is to allow for collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, to develop adequate training for acceptance of the DD214 and to ensure accuracy.

WHAT DO I DO IF SOMEONE BRINGS IN A DD214 PRIOR TO 8/1/16?

Please let the customer know that we are diligently working with the Department of Veterans affairs and are currently training staff. We expect to start accepting the DD214 on 8/1/16 and we appreciate their understanding during this transition. Advise the customer that they are welcome to visit their local VA office and provide us with the approved VA designation form; otherwise, they are welcome to wait until the 8/1/16 implementation date.