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Senate Bill 170

Senate Transportation, Commerce and Labor Committee

October 14, 2015

Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Minority Member Cafaro, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Labor Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present to you Senate Bill 170.

If enacted, this legislation would provide any nondriver identification card that is issued to a person from our greatest generation who is 80 years of age or older to be issued free of cost and have no expiration date.

Currently, in Ohio, you cannot hold an Ohio driver license and Identification Card at the same time. Ohio Identification Cards can only be used for identification purposes only and cannot be used for driving privileges. Ohio Identification Cards are valid for four (4) years, expiring on the applicant's birthday. A new or renewal identification card costs \$8.50 and a replacement card costs \$7.50 if it is lost or destroyed.

Many of these residents from our greatest generation are currently residing in nursing homes or live independently but cannot drive any longer. They must rely on family, friends and neighbors to take them

to medical appointments, pick up groceries and medications or for day to day errands that many of us take for granted. For those in nursing homes, going to their local BMV Deputy Registrar's office to renew their identification card or have their photo taken is not practical or even possible as they could have a disability that prevents them from leaving the facility or might not have anyone to transport them to the location. The last thing they should have to worry about is the expiration date of their identification card that they need for health insurance, medical, financial and other valid government purposes.

There were 1,290,836 state ID's issued by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles in 2014. For those aged 80 or over, the breakdown is as follows:¹

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of Permanent ID Cards</i>
80	7422
81	7300
82	7705
83	8006
84	8710
85	8508
86	8987
87	9063
88	9034
89	8677
90	8595
91	8060
92	7214
93	6872
94	5983
95	5009
96	4491
97	3800
98	3238
99	2924
100	11,737

Total 151,335 or 11.72% of Permanent state ID cards issued

A common question that comes up during legislative debate is what do other states do regarding this issue? According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, fifteen states provide free

¹ Data provided by Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicle BMV Records Section 5/20/15

identification cards for seniors, either based on age, income, and/or inability to drive. Five states provide identification cards that do not expire and Illinois is currently the only state that issues identification cards that are free and do not expire.²

<i>State</i>	<i>Policy regarding state ID cards</i>	<i>Fee range for Identification Card</i>
Alaska	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 60	\$15
Arizona	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 65	\$12
California	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 62	\$8; \$27 replacement
Colorado	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 60	\$10.50; \$7.50 replacement
Illinois	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 65 and do not expire	\$20; \$10 replacement
Louisiana	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 60	\$18
Maryland	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 65	\$15; \$20; \$24
Michigan	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 65	\$10 (enhanced id's are not included)
Minnesota	Provides identification cards for seniors over 65 that do not expire	\$16.50
Missouri	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 70	\$11
New Mexico	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 75	\$10 (4 year); \$18 (8 year)
New York	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 62 who receive SSI	\$9-\$10 (4 year); \$13-\$14 (8-9 years)
North Carolina	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 70	\$10
North Dakota	Provides free identification cards for seniors who do not have a license	\$8
Rhode Island	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 59	\$26.50
South Carolina	Provides free identification cards for seniors over 17	\$5.00 (for those 5-16 years old)
Tennessee	Provides identification cards for seniors over 65 that do not expire	\$9.50; \$8 replacement
Texas	Provides identification cards for seniors over 60 that do not expire	\$16; \$11 replacement
Utah	If an individual can no longer drive due to age, they can receive a free ID card	\$18; \$13 for those with disability

² NCSL Memo September 8, 2015; prepared by Amanda Essex, Esq. Research Analyst II

Chairwoman Manning and members of the committee, thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 170. I ask for your favorable support of this legislation, which if enacted, will provide any Ohio resident aged 80 or over would be eligible to receive a free state identification card that would never expire.