



COLORADO CENTER
on LAW & POLICY

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*Fact sheet for Bill No. 3 of
the Economic Opportunity
Poverty Reduction Task
Force*

Highlights:

- Valid IDs are critical to vulnerable seniors and veterans for healthcare, prescriptions, housing and job training.
- Veterans and seniors often lack birth certificates and other necessary documents.

Proposed solutions:

- Allow alternative documents for seniors and veterans to demonstrate lawful presence.
- Simplify the name change process.
- Waive court fees for those who need name changes.

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Removing barriers to ID cards improves access to benefits

SB-087, Sponsors: Senator Ulibarri, Representative Fields

Colorado residents who lack a valid state identification card can find themselves marginalized and excluded from essential services and assistance including access to health care, housing, employment and public benefits. In addition, citizens need a picture ID when opening a bank account, cashing a check, picking up prescriptions, boarding a plane and even entering some government buildings.

State IDs are issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) within the Department of Revenue. The ID application process can be daunting and confusing to individuals who lack documents required by the DMV. Among those who find themselves unable to overcome this barrier are two populations that deserve the state's protection and support: veterans and the elderly.

The elderly often need IDs for medical care, banking needs and public assistance. Veterans may require an ID to show a prospective employer or landlord or to register for a school or training program. For both groups, access to a state ID provides a means to improve economic opportunity and to reduce poverty.

Background

The DMV Identification Requirements Chart lists such documents as a state certified birth certificate or a U.S. Passport. Lacking these documents, applicants are turned away and advised to come back with them. Otherwise, applicants may be handed a list of alternative documents and advised to request Exception Processing (EP) on their next trip.

Problem

Many seniors and veterans may not have a birth certificate:

- Older adults may have been born at home and never had a birth certificate or it may have been lost in fires or floods.
- People with disabilities, injuries or frailties may find the physical demands of trips to the DMV too difficult.
- Veterans suffering from brain injuries or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or seniors with dementia may be unable to recall key facts needed to locate documents.

The DMV rules allow for an Exception Processing (EP) system, which is authorized under the federal Real ID Act to make exceptions for people who are unable to present all necessary documents for reasons beyond their control. The rules allow for alternative documents that demonstrate identity, date of birth and U.S. citizenship.

For many people, solving the challenges requires going to court to get their names changed which can be an expensive and time-consuming process. Colorado’s elderly and honorably discharged veterans should be afforded access to an **Expedited Exception Processing** system and a **Simplified Name Change** process so they do not have to wait months or years to receive a photo ID they need and deserve.

Proposed solutions:

- Provide a photo identification card to Colorado residents age 70 and older who present consistent verifiable documents establishing name, age, identity and lawful presence such as a Numident record issued by the Social Security Administration that shows place of birth.
- Provide a photo identification card to honorably discharged veterans age 50 years and older who present consistent verifiable documents establishing name, age, identity, and lawful presence such as a DD214.
- Require the Department of Revenue to develop rules for clarifying minor discrepancies in names among documents that confirm birth place and birth date.
- Waive court costs upon presentation of evidence of financial need when a legal name change is requested.

In name change cases, waive the requirement for a fingerprint-based criminal history when a CBI and national name-based check under all previously used names shows no evidence of a felony. Such cases would also require attestation under penalty of perjury that the individual has not been convicted of a felony.

Supporters

9to5 Colorado

All Families Deserve a Chance (AFDC) Coalition

Colorado Center on Law and Policy

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

Colorado Impact

Colorado Lawyers Committee

Colorado Senior Lobby

CWEE

Interfaith Alliance of Colorado