

As Introduced

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Representatives Barborak, Rogers

**Cosponsors: Representatives Ramos, Lundy, Antonio, Letson, Phillips,
Cera, Driehaus, Fedor, Slesnick, Reece, Curtin, Hagan, R., Strahorn,
Gerberry**

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A B I L L

To enact section 5902.021 of the Revised Code to 1
require the Director of Veterans Services to issue 2
disabled veteran's certificates that prove 3
service-related disabilities. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 5902.021 of the Revised Code be 5
enacted to read as follows: 6

Sec. 5902.021. The director of veterans services shall issue 7
disabled veteran's certificates. A disabled veteran's certificate 8
is sufficient to prove the service-related disability and level of 9
service-related disability of the disabled veteran named in the 10
certificate. A state agency and a political subdivision of the 11
state that provides a benefit to disabled veterans shall accept a 12
disabled veteran's certificate as proof of the facts it states. 13

The director shall issue a disabled veteran's certificate to 14
an individual who is a resident of this state, who is a veteran of 15
the armed services, who has a service-related disability, and who 16
applies to the director on a form prescribed by the director. 17

The application for a disabled veteran's certificate shall 18
require a disabled veteran to enter the disabled veteran's name, 19
address, telephone number or electronic mail address, branch of 20
the armed services, service-related disability, and level of 21
service-related disability, and to provide any other information 22
the director needs to prepare a disabled veteran's certificate for 23
the disabled veteran. The application shall require a disabled 24
veteran to attach supporting documentation that the director needs 25
to verify the facts asserted in the application. A supporting 26
document may be in the form of a photographic copy of the 27
original. 28

If the director verifies the information a disabled veteran 29
provides in the application, the director shall prepare and issue 30
a disabled veteran's certificate to the disabled veteran. If the 31
director is unable to verify the information a disabled veteran 32
provides in the application, the director shall notify the 33
disabled veteran of the deficiency. The disabled veteran may 34
reapply for a disabled veteran's certificate. 35

A disabled veteran's certificate shall state the date of its 36
issuance, the disabled veteran's name, that the disabled veteran 37
has a service-related disability, the level of the disabled 38
veteran's service-related disability, and any other information 39
the director determines necessary to achieve the purposes of the 40
disabled veteran's certificate. A disabled veteran's disabled 41
veteran's certificate is not valid unless the disabled veteran 42
named in the certificate has signed the certificate. The director 43
shall provide a place for the signature on the certificate. 44

A disabled veteran's certificate expires on the date that is 45
five years after the date on which it was issued. A disabled 46
veteran whose disabled veteran's certificate has expired may apply 47
to the director for the issuance of a new disabled veteran's 48
certificate. The director may authorize disabled veterans to apply 49

for new disabled veteran's certificates in anticipation of the 50
expiration of their current disabled veteran's certificates. 51

If a disabled veteran loses, misplaces, or damages the 52
disabled veteran's disabled veteran's certificate, the veteran may 53
provide the disabled veteran's name and address to the director, 54
together with an explanation of the loss, misplacing, or damage. 55
If the director verifies the facts asserted with regard to the 56
lost, misplaced, or damaged disabled veteran's certificate, the 57
director shall issue a replacement disabled veteran's certificate 58
to the disabled veteran. 59

If, because of a disabled veteran's service-related 60
disability, the disabled veteran is unable personally to perform 61
an act required by this section, the disabled veteran may cause 62
the act to be performed. Such a substituted performance has the 63
same validity as if the disabled veteran personally had performed 64
the act. 65

The director, under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, shall 66
adopt rules that are necessary for the successful and efficient 67
issuance of disabled veteran's certificates. In particular, the 68
director shall adopt the rules so as to deter fraud in the 69
issuance of disabled veteran's certificates. 70

Section 2. The Director of Veterans Services, not later than 71
the date that is six months after the effective date of this 72
section, shall adopt the initial rules that are necessary to 73
implement section 5902.021 of the Revised Code. 74