



For Immediate Release
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“Armed Forces” Stamp on Driver’s License Could Give Veterans a Retail Discount

COLUMBUS – Ohio veterans can get an “Armed Forces” designation stamped on their driver’s license or state ID the next time they renew/update their driver’s license.

The stamp, placed on the lower right of the license or ID, provides veterans with recognition of their military service. The stamp is provided at no additional cost when requested at the time a license or ID is renewed, but normal driver’s license fees still apply.

“The ‘Armed Forces’ designation on the Ohio driver’s license and/or ID card recognizes the service of our military men, women and veterans,” said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Thomas Charles. “We are proud to offer this no-cost way of recognizing those who have served.”

One of the advantages of this program is that the specially labeled license may be honored by Ohio merchants who give military members or veterans a discount. Whether a discount is granted, however, is solely dependent upon each individual retailer’s policy.

A number of retailers in Ohio will offer a military or veterans discount, either periodically during major holidays, or at all times. Retailers generally require that some form of photo ID is produced to receive the discount, either a current military active duty or retired ID card, an ID from the National Guard or Reserve, or an ID showing enrollment in health care from the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs (VA). But veterans who served limited terms of service are generally not issued such documentation.

The “Armed Forces” stamp, which has been in existence since December 2009, enables these veterans to have a photo ID as a sign of their service. To be eligible to receive the stamp, at no extra cost, veterans must provide to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles a copy of their DD 214 or DD 215 when they renew their driver’s license or military ID. Other forms of identification acceptable to receive the stamp include a VA ID, a current military ID, a leave and earnings statement, or a copy of orders.

“I strongly encourage all veterans to get the ‘Armed Forces’ stamp when they renew their license,” said Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tom Moe. “Our department’s principal goal is to connect veterans to their benefits, and this will help us identify our veterans while possibly providing them with a very helpful benefit.”

The Directors of Public Safety and Veterans Services emphasized that a military or veterans discount is not available from all retailers, or if so, perhaps not year-round. Whether or not a retailer provides a discount or accepts the “Armed Forces” stamp as proof of service to receive a discount is up to the policy for each individual retailer.

However, the minimal time and effort expended to obtain the “Armed Forces” stamp, at no additional cost, could add up to real money saved next time they shop.

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For more information, contact:

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A representation of the stamp, at the lower right of the driver’s license, can be seen at:
<http://dvs.ohio.gov/Portals/4/library/odvs/news/samplelicense.pdf>