

On July 20, President Obama signed into law **P.L. 114-31**, a bill that creates a new identification card (ID) for military veterans. Sponsored by Representative Vern Buchanan (FL), the bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to issue a veteran's identification card (VA currently only provides VA-enrolled veterans an ID card). The newly-legislated VA card would allow veterans to prove their veteran status without having to carry a military service record, such as the most common form of proof of service known as the "DD-214." DD-214s contain sensitive personal information, such as the veteran's Social Security Number, thus leaving a veteran at risk for identify theft.

Sec. 2) Directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to issue a veteran's identification card to a requesting veteran who is neither entitled to military retired pay nor enrolled in the VA system of patient enrollment.

Requires such card, among other things, to: (1) display the veteran's name and photograph, and (2) serve as proof that the veteran has a DD-214 form or other official document in his or her military personnel file that describes the veteran's military service.

Directs VA to charge a card fee.

States that such card shall not serve as proof of entitlement to any benefits.

We are waiting to hear from VA concerning when they plan on rolling out the new VA ID Cards. As soon as we receive confirmation, we will provide you with an update.