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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**  
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 735  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**DRIVER AND MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES DIVISION**

**FILED**  
03/31/2026 7:57 AM  
ARCHIVES DIVISION  
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: New and Clarified Acceptable Proof of Eligibility for Veteran Designation and Veteran Plates

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 04/21/2026 5:00 PM

*The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.*

*A public rulemaking hearing may be requested in writing by 10 or more people, or by a group with 10 or more members, within 21 days following the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Oregon Bulletin or 28 days from the date the Notice was sent to people on the agency mailing list, whichever is later. If sufficient hearing requests are received, the notice of the date and time of the rulemaking hearing must be published in the Oregon Bulletin at least 14 days before the hearing.*

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**NEED FOR THE RULE(S)**

Oregon Laws 2025, chapter 269 (House Bill 2559), authorizes state agencies to accept an applicant's summary of benefits letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs when determining eligibility for benefits or services offered by the agency.

The Oregon Department of Transportation, Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV), is using this authority to expand the list of acceptable documents that may be used to establish veteran status. This change will allow applicants to use a summary of benefits letter to request a veteran designation on a driver permit, driver license, or identification card, and to qualify for veteran designation registration plates.

To implement this change, DMV proposes to amend OAR 735-062-0012 and OAR 735-040-0090 to include "an applicant's summary of benefits letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs" as an acceptable document for verifying veteran status.

DMV proposes updating the rules to clarify that all acceptable proof of veteran status documents must be issued under honorable conditions. This update aligns both rules with the definition of "veteran" found in ORS 408.225.

DMV proposes revising OAR 735-040-0090 regarding eligibility for the Non-Commissioned Officers Association plate to accurately reflect the intended rank range. The current rule lists rank E1-E9 as eligible; however, eligibility for this plate is limited to non-commissioned officers, which is limited to ranks E5 through E9.

**DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE**

Enrolled HB 2559 (2025) -  
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2559/Enrolled>

## STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

DMV does not believe this rulemaking will negatively affect racial equity. The current list of approved documents, as well as the updated list, applies equally to all applicants and the other rule changes clarify the requirements for the respective documents. However, DMV anticipates a positive impact for some veterans who may have difficulty obtaining a DD 214 or DD 215 but have access to a summary of benefits letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

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## FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

See below.

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## COST OF COMPLIANCE:

*(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).*

(1) DMV will incur implementation costs related to this rule change. The new law allows state agencies to accept an applicant's summary of benefits letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, but does not require them to do so. As a result, all implementation costs are directly attributable to this rulemaking. DMV estimates the cost to implement this change to be approximately \$15,000.

The rule changes clarify that a person must have been discharged under honorable conditions to qualify for a Non-Commissioned Officers Association plate, as well as for a driver license, driver permit, or identification card with a veteran status indicator. These clarifications do not change who is eligible for these credentials. As a result, no fiscal impacts are expected.

There will be no ongoing costs associated with maintaining or administering these changes once implementation is complete.

This rulemaking is not expected to result in any fiscal impact on other governmental agencies or the public.

(2) There will be no effect on small businesses.

(2)(a) None.

(2)(b) There are no expected reporting, recordkeeping, or administrative activities or costs required to comply with these rules.

(2)(c) There are no anticipated costs associated with professional services, equipment, supplies, labor, or increased administrative burden required to comply with these rules.

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## DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Although small businesses were not directly involved in the development of these rules, the DMV shared the draft rules with several organizations that represent small business interests to provide an opportunity for feedback.

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## WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

The DMV consulted with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) and received confirmation that the summary of benefits letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs will be provided only to individuals who meet the basic eligibility criteria for the veteran designation and veteran registration plates. While members of the public have previously suggested alternative documents for this purpose, those documents do not meet

the necessary standards to ensure that only qualified applicants are approved.

RULES PROPOSED:

735-040-0090, 735-062-0012

AMEND: 735-040-0090

RULE SUMMARY: DMV proposes to amend OAR 735-040-0090 to:

- Include “an applicant’s summary of benefits letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs” as an acceptable document for verifying veteran status,
- Clarify that all acceptable proof of veteran status documents must be issued under honorable conditions, and
- Update the rule regarding eligibility for the Non-Commissioned Officers Association plate to accurately reflect the intended rank range. The current rule lists rank E1–E9 as eligible; however, eligibility for this plate is limited to non-commissioned officers, which is limited to ranks E5 through E9.

CHANGES TO RULE:

735-040-0090

Veterans Recognition Registration Plates for Veterans' Groups; Restrictions on Issuance; Proof of Veteran Status ¶¶

(1) Issuance of veterans' recognition registration plates may be restricted to certain persons as provided under ORS 805.105 and this rule. Conditions for restrictions are as follows:¶¶

(a) Restrictions on issuance of a particular veterans' recognition registration plate as requested by a veterans' group must relate to a person's service in the Armed Services of the United States. For example:¶¶

(A) DMV may approve a request to restrict issuance of a particular veterans' recognition registration plate to only veterans or to only those awarded a Purple Heart medal; and¶¶

(B) DMV will not approve a request to restrict veterans' recognition registration plate issuance to only veterans who are members of a particular group.¶¶

(b) A veteran's group requesting a restriction on plate issuance must do so on the initial Application for Approval of Veteran Group Plates. The group must describe the restriction(s) and the basis for the restriction;¶¶

(c) All restrictions must be approved by DMV.¶¶

(d) If a requested restriction is approved, DMV will consult the group in determining the criteria DMV uses in issuing veterans' recognition registration plates for that group.¶¶

(2) Veterans' recognition registration plates may not be issued as custom plates, or in conjunction with any other special registration or plate type.¶¶

(3) When a veterans' group approved by DMV or the Director of Veterans' Affairs requires proof of veteran status or proof of receipt of a service-related medal, or the applicant requests "Gold Star Family" registration plates, DMV will accept the following as proof of eligibility:¶¶

(a) For plates that include a decal depicting an insignia of a branch of the Armed Services, a completed and signed Veteran Plate Certification (DMV Form 735-7307), certifying the applicant is eligible to receive the plates, and ~~either~~ any of the following:¶¶

(A) For military service year 1950 or after, a US Department of Defense Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD 214) or Correction to DD 214 Form (DD 215); ~~or~~¶¶

(B) For military service before year 1950, a separation document or form issued by a branch or department of the US Armed Services; ~~or~~¶¶

(C) An applicant's Summary of Benefits Letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.¶¶

(b) For a veterans' group with a service-related restriction approved by DMV under OAR 735-040-0080, a completed and signed Veteran Plate Certification (DMV Form 735-7307), certifying the applicant is eligible to receive the plates, and ~~either~~ one of the following:¶¶

(A) For military service year 1950 or after, a DD 214 or DD 215; ~~or~~¶¶

(B) For military service before year 1950, a separation document or form issued by a branch or department of the US Armed Services;¶¶

(C) An applicant's Summary of Benefits Letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, in addition to documentation that demonstrates the applicant qualifies under the service-related restriction.¶¶

(c) For plates that include a decal depicting a service-related medal:¶¶

(A) A completed and signed Veteran Plate Certification (DMV Form 735-7307), certifying the applicant is eligible

to receive the plates;¶

(B) A letter, award certificate or other document issued by the US Department of Defense showing the applicant is a recipient of the service-related medal; and¶

(C) Either of the following:¶

(i) For military service year 1950 or later, a DD 214 ~~or~~, DD 215 or an applicant's Summary of Benefits Letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or¶

(ii) For military service before year 1950, a separation document or form issued by a branch or department of the US Armed Services.¶

(d) For plates displaying a gold star and the words "Gold Star Family," a completed and signed Gold Star Family Certification (DMV Form 735-6940), certifying the applicant is a Gold Star Family member, as defined in ORS 366.931.¶

~~(4) A DD 214, DD 215 or separation form or document required under section (3) of this rule must have been issued under honorable conditions.¶~~

~~(5) "Non-Commissioned Officers Association" and "Vietnam Veterans of America" registration plates issued prior to January 1, 2024, were issued to any applicant who applied for the plates and may be renewed without providing proof of eligibility as described in this section. Effective January 1, 2024, DMV will issue the registration plates only to veterans who are determined eligible by DMV. An applicant must provide the following information as proof of eligibility:¶~~

~~(a) For Non-Commissioned Officers Association plates, a completed and signed Veteran Plate Certification (DMV Form 735-7307), certifying the applicant is eligible to receive the plates; and one of the following:¶~~

~~(A) For military service year 1950 or after, a DD 214 or DD 215 that specifies honorable discharge and indicates a Non-Commissioned Officer rank of E15 to E9; ~~or~~¶~~

~~(B) For military service before year 1950, a separation document or form issued by a branch or department of the US Armed Services that specifies honorable discharge and indicates a Non-Commissioned Officer rank of E15 to E9; ~~or~~¶~~

~~(C) A separation document described in paragraph subsections (iA) or (iiB) of this subsection that does not provide indicate on the document the member held a Non-Commissioned Officer rank, and an unexpired military ID card or other documentation issued by a branch or department of the US Armed Services that indicates a Non-Commissioned Officer rank of E5 to E9; on the document¶~~

~~(D) An applicant's Summary of Benefits Letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and a military ID card or other documentation issued by a branch or department of the US Armed Services that specifies a rank of E5 to E9.¶~~

~~(b) For Vietnam Veterans of America plates:¶~~

~~(A) A completed and signed Veteran Plate Certification (DMV Form 735-7307), certifying the applicant is eligible to receive the plates; and¶~~

~~(B) A DD 214 ~~or~~, DD 215 that specifies a term of service during the Vietnam era, the period beginning November 1, 1955, and ending on May 7, 1975. or the applicant's Summary of Benefits Letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, that indicates a term of service during the Vietnam era, the period beginning November 1, 1955, and ending on May 7, 1975.¶~~

~~(5) A DD 214, DD 215 or separation form or document required under section (3) or (4) of this rule must indicate that the applicant is a veteran as defined in ORS 408.225. The required document must be provided as follows:¶~~

~~(a) For military service year 1950 or after, a DD 214, DD 215 or a Summary of Benefits Letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs must indicate that the veteran was discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions, as defined in section (6) of this rule.¶~~

~~(b) For military service before year 1950, the applicant must present a separation form or document.¶~~

~~(6) For the purposes of this rule and ORS 408.225, "under honorable conditions" or "honorable conditions" has the meaning given the phrase by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs in OAR 274-012-0001 and means that the official documents of discharge, service, or separation issued upon the termination of the veteran's active duty service with the Armed Forces are characterized by the relevant branch of the Armed Forces as one of the following:¶~~

~~(a) "Honorable"; or¶~~

~~(b) "General" also known as "General Under Honorable Conditions."~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 184.619, 413.650, 802.010, 805.105

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 366.931, 413.650, 805.105, 38 CFR 3

AMEND: 735-062-0012

RULE SUMMARY: DMV proposes to amend OAR 735-062-0012 and OAR 735-040-0090 to include “an applicant’s summary of benefits letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs” as an acceptable document for verifying veteran status and to clarify that all acceptable proof of veteran status documents must be issued under honorable conditions.

CHANGES TO RULE:

735-062-0012

Veteran Designation on a Driver License, Driver Permit or Identification Card-

(1) A person who is a veteran, as defined in ORS 408.225, may request that DMV add a veteran designation to the person's driver license, driver permit or identification card.¶

(2) DMV will accept the following as proof the person is a veteran:¶

(a) For discharge from military service in 1950 or after, a U.S. Defense Department Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD 214), or a Correction to DD 214 Form (DD 215); ~~or~~¶

(b) For discharge from military service before 1950, a separation document or form issued by a branch or department of the US Armed Services.¶

~~(3); or~~¶

(c) An applicant's Summary of Benefits Letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.¶

(3) A document presented under subsection (2)(a) or (2)(c) of this rule must indicate the veteran was released or discharged from active duty under honorable conditions, as defined in section (6) of this rule.¶

(4) The request for a veteran designation may be made when applying for an original, renewal or replacement driver license, driver permit or identification card. The veteran designation will remain on the person's driver license, driver permit or identification card, except as specified in section (45) of this rule.¶

(45) A person may request a veteran designation be removed when renewing or replacing a driver license, driver permit or identification card.¶

(6) For the purposes of this rule and ORS 408.225, "under honorable conditions" or "honorable conditions" has the meaning given the phrase by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs in OAR 274-012-0001 and means that the official documents of discharge, service, or separation issued upon the termination of the veteran's active duty service with the Armed Forces are characterized by the relevant branch of the Armed Forces as one of the following:¶

(a) "Honorable"; or¶

(b) "General" also known as "General Under Honorable Conditions."

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 184.6169, ~~184.6194~~13.650, 802.010, 807.110, 807.160, 807.400

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 413.650, 807.110, 807-,160, 807.400