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RICHMOND, VA 23219

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

*Air Force Association
American Ex-Prisoners
of War
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United
States Army
Disabled American
Veterans
Fleet Reserve
Association
Korean War Veterans
Association
Legion of Valor of the
U.S., Inc.
Marine Corps League
Military Order of the
Purple Heart
Military Officers
Association of America
Military Order of the
World Wars
National Association for
Uniformed Services
Navy Seabee Veterans of
America
Non-Commissioned
Officers Association
Paralyzed Veterans of
America
Reserve Officers
Association
Roanoke Valley Veterans
Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of
America
Virginia National Guard
Association
Women Marines
Association*

Adopted
July 13, 2011

Amended
December 20, 2011

2012 POSITION PAPER Veterans Identification

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To provide a simple, ready means of identification for Virginia's veterans.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - Veterans who have served in the active military, naval, or air service and who have been released under conditions other than dishonorable receive a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, known as a Department of Defense (DD) Form 214, or DD-214.
 - Retired service personnel, including those who are medically retired, receive a United States Uniformed Services Identification (ID) Card (DD Form 2 (Retired)).
 - Veterans who receive medical care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) receive a VA ID card. However, only 15% of Virginia's veterans qualify for VA medical care.
3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - Veterans who wish to prove veterans status, but who lack a retiree or VA ID card, must show a DD-214 or other discharge papers. However, these documents cannot be conveniently carried on a daily basis.
 - Creating a Virginia Veterans ID Card would:
 - Give veterans a quick, convenient way to prove veterans status;
 - Help veterans qualify for commercial discounts (restaurants and other stores) or other cost saving features (such as free access to Virginia's parks or reduced fishing license fees);
 - Potentially help law enforcement officials assist veterans in crisis situations, such as when a veteran may be suffering from post-traumatic stress and other emotional battle scars; and
 - Honor their service to Virginia and the Nation.
 - To obtain the Virginia Veterans ID Card, veterans would need to show their DD-214 as evidence of their service and their discharge. Retired service members could present either a DD-214 or retiree ID card.
 - DMV already has the statutory authority to create a separate Virginia Veterans ID Card and has agreed to do so. The target roll out is Memorial Day 2012.
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly support the creation of a Virginia Veterans ID Card.