

Date of Hearing: May 14, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1151 (Connolly) – As Amended March 24, 2025

Policy Committee: Transportation

Vote: 15 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to amend any forms used for the cancellation or surrender of a driver's license (DL) to allow a person 62 years of age or older to apply for an identification card (ID) using the same form and, upon receipt of this amended form, requires DMV to issue an ID bearing the notation "Senior Citizen" to the applicant.

FISCAL EFFECT:

DMV anticipates costs in excess of \$500,000 for the destruction, modification and reprinting of specified forms. DMV also anticipates to-be-determined but significant costs to modify automated notices for driver license suspension and cancellation processes and to create new processes for the issuance of identification cards.

The Motor Vehicle Account (MVA) is the appropriate funding sources for the costs of this bill. The MVA is facing insolvency. The Legislative Analyst's Office noted that, "Until a plan is put in place to address MVA's structural deficit, we recommend the Legislature set a high bar for considering approval of any proposals that create additional MVA cost pressures and accelerate the risk of insolvency."

COMMENTS:

Oftentimes, an older Californian will voluntarily surrender their DL to the DMV. In addition, existing law allows DMV to revoke the DL of a person who suffers from certain deficiencies, such as mental lapses, that become more common as people age. The DMV does not—and is not presently equipped to—immediately issue an ID to a person who chooses to surrender their DL.

The author intends this bill—conceived by a constituent as part of a "There-Ought-to-Be-A-Law" competition—to ensure a senior quickly and seamlessly receives a photo ID when surrendering a DL. According to the author:

A photo identification card can serve many purposes beyond driving or travel, including checking out a book at a library, banking transactions, picking up prescriptions, public welfare programs, retail transactions, and more. When seniors forfeit their driver's license, they should not be penalized for no longer having an identification card in their possession. With this legislation, seniors will be automatically issued an identification

card when they give up their driver's license, and will be able to continue to utilize their ID without requiring a visit to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

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