

1 AN ACT concerning veterans.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Veterans' and Military Discount Program Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative findings. The General Assembly
7 finds that though there is no way to adequately repay our
8 nation's military personnel for their service and sacrifice, we
9 can demonstrate our gratitude by forging a collaborative effort
10 between businesses and government that will connect veterans
11 and active duty service members with merchants who choose to
12 honor their military service through special discounts and
13 promotions.

14 The Veterans' and Military Discount Program, created under
15 this Act, will enable veterans (those honorably discharged and
16 other veterans generally discharged for reasons other than
17 discipline, misconduct, resignation in lieu of misconduct
18 charges, unfitness for duty, voluntary resignation, or court
19 martial) and military personnel currently serving our country
20 to receive a discount on goods and services from participating
21 merchants, or another appropriate money-saving promotion of a
22 merchant's choice.

23 The Veterans' and Military Discount Program will be

1 mutually beneficial, helping active duty service members and
2 veterans in the State save money with discounts on goods and
3 services, and helping business owners to enjoy increased
4 traffic and sales in their stores.

5 Section 10. Veterans' and Military Discount Program. The
6 Department of Veterans' Affairs shall establish and administer
7 a Veterans' and Military Discount Program that enables veterans
8 and active duty military personnel to use the following photo
9 identification at participating merchants to receive a
10 discount on goods and services or to receive another
11 appropriate money-saving promotion of a merchant's choice:

12 (1) veterans who have a valid driver's license or
13 Illinois Identification Card issued pursuant to subsection
14 (e) of Section 6-106 of the Illinois Vehicle Code or
15 subsection (c-5) of Section 4 of the Illinois
16 Identification Card Act; and

17 (2) active duty military personnel who have a valid
18 Common Access Card issued by the U.S. Department of Defense
19 indicating the cardholder's active duty status.

20 Section 15. Outreach program. The Department shall develop
21 and implement an outreach program to ensure that active duty
22 service members, veterans, and potential merchant-participants
23 in the State are made aware of the Veterans' and Military
24 Discount Program. However, the Department shall not be required

1 to conduct such outreach in a county offering a similar
2 discount program. The Secretary of State may also assist in
3 promoting and disseminating information on the Veterans' and
4 Military Discount Program.

5 Section 20. Rules. The Department of Veterans' Affairs
6 shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this Act.

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
8 becoming law.