



Terry J. Brown

Franklin County Recorder

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Newly-signed Law to Expand Access to Veteran Identification Cards Across Ohio

Franklin County Recorder Terry J. Brown applauds teamwork in successful adoption of HB 173

COLUMBUS – With Governor John Kasich’s signature last week, HB 173 became law, allowing initiatives such as Franklin County’s Veteran ID Card Program to become permissible throughout Ohio.

Franklin County Recorder Terry J. Brown said the new law will increase the availability of veteran identification cards across Ohio. The wallet-sized ID card eliminates the need for a veteran to carry their discharge document - which contains sensitive information and does not become a public record until 75 years after the date of recording - in order to provide proof of service.

“In 2013, Franklin County became the second county in Ohio to issue Veteran Identification Cards,” Recorder Brown said. “Since then, we have worked with more than 36 counties to help them begin their own identification card program. Through the tireless work of the Ohio Recorders’ Association, its legislative committee and amazing lobbying team, Governor Kasich last week signed HB 173 into law. The new legislation makes these cards permissive statewide, an allowance that is expected to increase their availability to our veterans across Ohio. What’s more, the law will standardize the design of the cards, so every county recorder’s card looks the same across the state.”

HB 173 also standardizes the expiration period for a newly-issued Veteran Identification Card to 10 years. As a result, the Franklin County Recorder’s Office this month began issuing cards with a 10-year expiration date, up from a four-year expiration it established since launching the program in May 2013.

The recording of an original DD214 or certified copy is the first step in the minutes-long process of issuing a veteran ID card. In Franklin County, the cards are issued at no cost to veterans. In the program’s three-year history, the Franklin County Recorder’s Office has issued nearly 6,000 veteran ID cards at its offices on the 18th floor at 373 S. High Street, Columbus, and at various events in the county.

The Franklin County Veteran Identification Card program has led to a 13-fold increase in the recording of veteran discharge papers with the Franklin County Recorder’s Office. Between 2008 and 2012 – before the program began – the Recorder’s Office recorded an average of 153 veteran discharge documents per year. In 2013-2015, the Recorder’s Office recorded an average of 1,986 veteran discharge documents per year, making them easily available to thousands of veterans and their close family members who might need to access this important document.

About the Franklin County Recorder’s Office

In Ohio’s capital city and second most populous county, the Franklin County Recorder’s Office records an average of more than 187,000 documents each year, or about 90 documents per hour, and brings in an average of more than \$9.4 million in revenue to Franklin County and the State of Ohio. The Recorder’s Office keeps and maintains accurate land records that are current, legible and easily accessible. Without the work of the County Recorder in recording, safekeeping and organizing all documents in a competent and logical manner, it would be nearly impossible to purchase land and be assured of a clear title or to lend money with land as security. Recorder Terry J. (TJ) Brown focuses on enhancing services to constituents while reducing costs and streamlining operations. For more information, visit <http://recorder.franklincountyohio.gov>.