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HOLLEY PROPOSES MILITARY ID USAGE

By Forrest Anglin

State Sen. Jimmy Holley, R-Elba, has proposed a bill that will allow military personnel to use their military identification cards to prove that they are U.S. citizens or are legally present in the country.

The bill, Senate Bill 171, would allow all military persons to use the identification supplied to them by the military to apply for or renew a business license, a driver's license, a nondriver identification or a vehicle license plate.

The bill will not pertain to marriage licenses, for which other proof of citizenship or legal presence in the United States will be required.

The bill is intended to benefit the people enlisted in the military and in the reserves, Holley said. It will aid the veterans of any military branch as well, he said.

"We have several thousand assigned to Fort Rucker who are serving on active duty there and in Montgomery at the bases there," Holley said when asked how he felt this bill would benefit people in and near Elba.

"We are blessed; we've got an abundance of retirees," he said.

He said the bill will aid the people of the military and make life a little easier for the men and women fighting for freedom.

"I use my military I.D. card everywhere, so it would make things more convenient for the military service members and their families," said Army Spc. Devri Kilcrease, currently stationed in Fort Carson, Colo.

Kilcrease is originally from Elba.

Kilcrease also said that she agrees with the proposed bill and feels that it will help military personnel in every branch.

"I believe a positive effect will come out of Sen. Holley's attempt at this, and I think it's great for service members," Kilcrease added.

Lance Cpl. E3 Tyler Thompson, 26, from Birmingham, a Marine reservist, said he also likes Holley's bill.

He said he has used his military identification at some restaurants that offered military discounts.

"It's always nice to be able to use," Thompson said. "Sometimes it's your only form of I.D."

Holley is also proposing a bill, Senate Bill 168, to amend the law applying to vehicle license plates for military personnel.

Thompson said he is in favor of this bill also.

According to the bill synopsis, which can be found on the Alabama Legislature's website, under existing law, current members of the United States Reserve units and a few other organizations are exempted from state privilege or license taxes and registration fees for one passenger vehicle.

"This bill would provide for the same exemption for persons who are retired from the United States Armed Forces and from any United States Armed Forces reserve organization," according to the synopsis. "The bill would provide that the exemption would extend only to United States Armed Forces retired distinctive license plates."

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