



Susana Martinez
Governor

Timothy Hale
Cabinet Secretary

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**State to Unveil “Veteran’s Designation” Driver’s License
*New Designation License to Help Law Enforcement;
Help Veterans Take Advantage of Veterans’ Merchant Discounts***

***Friday, November 16 (11am)
Albuquerque Motor Vehicle Division Office
(Sandia Vista Shopping Center/11500 Menaul Blvd. NE)***

(ALBUQUERQUE, NM)—The state of New Mexico is announcing the launch of a new “Veteran’s Designation” Driver’s License at an 11am news conference on November 16 in Albuquerque at the state Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) office located in the Sandia Vista Shopping Center at 11500 Menaul Blvd. NE (near Juan Tabo Blvd).

Any honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces may apply for this special designation license. Veterans will need only to provide their *DD Form 214 Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty* form, Military Retiree or VA Medical ID card when applying for the designation. There will be no additional cost added to the normal \$18 driver’s license renewal or replacement fee. Veterans currently holding a valid driver’s license will have to pay the normal replacement fee if they would like this new veterans’ designation driver’s license.

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Secretary Timothy Hale is scheduled to be joined by representatives from the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department and the New Mexico Department of Public Safety to provide details about the application process and answer any questions.

According to NMDVS Secretary Hale, the main goal of this multi-agency effort to get the Veterans' Designation Driver's License is to provide law enforcement agents with an additional tool when responding to situations out in the field.

"The veterans' designation license can help law enforcement officers quickly identify an apprehended person as a veteran," said Secretary Hale. "In a potentially tense situation, a responding officer would then be alerted that he or she may be dealing with a veteran who may be suffering from a mental health issue such as PTSD. Officers can then utilize proper measures currently in place which dictate how to prevent or de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation."

Another benefit of the new Veteran's Designation license is to make it easier for veterans to take advantage of veterans or military discounts offered by many local businesses. Veterans will no longer have to be inconvenienced by carrying a copy of their DD-214 Form to prove veteran status. In addition, many veterans do not use VA medical services and thus do not have a VA Medical ID card—another form of ID typically asked by merchants as proof of being a veterans. Veterans can now simply show their new veterans' designation driver's license.

New Mexico joins a growing number of states offering a Veteran's Designation Driver's License.

The media will be there to cover this news conference. Veterans are invited to attend as a show support and appreciation of this new veterans' designation driver's license—and to be among the first to apply afterwards.

Again, the office is located in the Sandia Vista Shopping Center at 11500 Menaul Blvd. NE (near Juan Tabo Blvd).

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