



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

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H.549 – An act relating to eligibility of sentenced or detained individuals to obtain a State-issued nondriver identification card, replacement operator’s license, or replacement learner’s permit

As passed by the House of Representatives¹

Bill Summary

This bill would expand the types of identification an individual who is sentenced to serve a period of imprisonment of six months or more in a correctional facility may receive for free when released. This bill would also allow for an individual who is detained for six months or more in a correctional facility to qualify for the same IDs for free.

This bill is estimated to have a de minimis impact on State revenues.

Fiscal Impact

Under current law, Vermont offers free nondriver IDs to eligible individuals who are sentenced to serve a period of imprisonment of six months or more. This bill would expand the types of identification those individuals can receive for free to include replacement operator’s licenses and replacement learner’s permits. This bill would also expand exemption eligibility to include individuals who are detained for six months or more in a correctional facility.

Per the Department of Corrections (DOC), in 2025, 465 free nondriver IDs were provided to sentenced individuals. Between 2022 and 2025, there were an average of 46 individuals per year who were detained for a period of six months or longer. Under current law, nondriver IDs have an application fee of \$29; replacement operator’s licenses and replacement learner’s permits have an application fee of \$24.

There could be revenue loss from these eligible individuals no longer paying the above-mentioned fee. Given the fact that a large portion of eligible individuals are already receiving nondriver IDs for free and the small number of new applicable individuals, the Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) estimates that this bill will have a de minimis fiscal impact.

¹ The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.