

# REAL ID Fact Sheet

## **REAL ID and Senate Bill 133**

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has staggered implementation dates for REAL ID.
  - January 30, 2017 – Non-REAL ID compliant driver’s licenses and photo IDs no longer accepted for access to federal property, military installations and nuclear sites that require ID upon entry. This does not include sites that do not require ID upon entry such as post offices, Social Security offices, etc.
  - January 22, 2018 – Non-REAL ID compliant driver’s licenses and photo IDs no longer accepted for access to commercial aircraft, including those flying domestically.
- DHS has granted states various extensions in order to give them more time to work through issues they have had on implementing REAL ID. No extensions will be granted beyond October 1, 2020.
- With a January 30, 2017 implementation date looming for access to federal property, military installations and nuclear sites, Governor Wolf and legislative leaders applied for and was granted a very limited compliance extension through June 6, 2017 from DHS with the expectation that “a legislative solution and vote would occur” to move Pennsylvania towards compliance with REAL ID.
- SB 133 was introduced and passed by the General Assembly to:
  - Repeal Act 38 of 2012, which prohibited any state agency from complying with REAL ID;
  - Give Pennsylvanians the choice between applying for or renewing a standard-issue driver’s license or photo ID card, or obtaining a REAL ID-compliant driver’s license or photo ID card once PENNDOT begins issuing them;
  - Require PENNDOT to provide the General Assembly with a report by August 24, 2017 on the anticipated costs of implementation;
    - While PENNDOT has self-reported to DHS the standards it believes it has met and still has yet to meet in regards to REAL ID, the department will be able to enter into negotiations with DHS once SB 133 is signed into law over the specific requirements needed for Pennsylvania to come into full compliance and put a price tag on them. The report is intended to give the best fiscal analysis of compliance and time for the General Assembly to respond, if needed.
  - Require PENNDOT to provide annual reports to the General Assembly regarding further implementation costs and numbers of REAL IDs issued; and
  - Work to ensure one type of license does not subsidize another type of license.

## **Now that the General Assembly passed SB 133, what next?**

- The Governor will sign SB 133 today (5/26/17).
- Once it is signed, PENNDOT will submit a request for a compliance extension from the federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- PENNDOT will receive a determination from DHS.

## **What does this mean for constituents?**

- The only thing known for certain at this point in time is Pennsylvanians can continue to use their state driver's licenses and photo identifications until June 7<sup>th</sup> to access any federal property, military installations, and nuclear power sites that require an ID for entry.
- While we anticipate favorable consideration of a compliance extension from DHS, we must await that decision which PENNDOT expects to come before June 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **What will an extension mean?**

- Pennsylvanians would be able to continue using their state driver's licenses and photo identifications to access federal property, military installations, and nuclear power sites beyond June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Depending upon how long the extension is, it may also ensure Pennsylvanians can use their state driver's licenses and photo identifications for access to commercial aircraft beyond January 22, 2018.
- PENNDOT is hopeful the Commonwealth will gain an extension or multiple extensions from DHS until it begins issuing REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and photo IDs for those residents who choose to obtain them, thereby avoiding any need for Pennsylvanians to obtain a passport in order to gain entry to federal property, military installations, nuclear sites, or domestic commercial air flights.

## **When will REAL IDs be available in PENNSYLVANIA and how much will they cost?**

- REAL IDs will have to be available by October 1, 2020.
- PENNDOT estimates it needs 18-24 months for implementation. This timeframe is dependent upon negotiations with DHS, potential need for further implementing legislation, and budgetary concerns.
- The fee for a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or photo ID is to be determined. PENNDOT's goal is to keep the fee as close to the cost of a standard-issue driver's license and photo ID but there could be an additional cost for a REAL ID.
- PENNDOT anticipates the most significant cost of compliance will come with increased traffic within its driver's licensing centers for renewals. Currently, renewals for PA driver's licenses and photo ID cards are handled through the mail. Other than the need for a new picture, most individuals do not have to access counter service assistance when renewing their driver's license or photo ID. REAL ID increases the situations where an individual will need to provide required documentation when renewing and therefore will need to utilize counter service assistance beyond obtaining a new picture.

## **How will REAL ID affect Military IDs?**

- Military IDs will not be replaced by REAL ID.
- Individuals with a military ID, including those for spouses and dependents, may continue use them for access and travel regardless of what happens with Pennsylvania driver's licenses and photo IDs.