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## Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles Receives Our Document Security Excellence Award

Keeping IDentities Safe presented the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) with an award for Document Security Excellence in Columbus, OH on Sept. 4, 2018. The award recognizes

innovative card upgrades to the security features and physical attributes to reduce counterfeiting, criminal alteration, and to improve the reliability of card authentication by government and business. 145 BMV employees received certificates of achievement recognizing their individual contributions to improvements which protect identities and personal information, and which prevent identity theft and fraud.

The Ohio BMV has established a secure driver licensing process which mitigates the risk that criminals will fraudulently obtain a driver's license or state issued identification card under an assumed or fictitious identity. Among the BMV's robust protections, this year's improvements include strengthened processes for identity authentication and improved methodology to detect impostors and those attempting identity fraud.



Keeping IDentities Safe President Brian Zimmer said, "the security of Ohioans is enhanced by the significant, multi-faceted improvements made to physical card construction and personalization via laser engraving, as well as card issuance refinements implemented by the BMV this year. Public Safety depends on confirming the identity of driver's license applicants, and Ohio BMV is among the best in the country at that vital task."

[Click here for the story](#)

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## **COUNTERFEIT IDS:** **A NATIONAL SECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY THREAT**

### **CBP Intercepts Nearly 500 Foreign-made Counterfeits in Philadelphia**

Philadelphia roadways should be a little safer thanks to the confiscation of almost 500 counterfeit driver's licenses by US customs officers in Philadelphia. Diligent work by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials since May has disrupted a steady stream of fake IDs, originating from China, Canada, and several Southwest Asian countries. The 500 were copies of U.S. state-issued driver's licenses of over 20 different states, as well as some Nigerian driver's licenses. Namely, the bogus IDs especially represented Connecticut, but also Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Washington state, Florida, Vermont, and others. While it is alarming to see Virginia and D.C. on that list (particularly if they are counterfeits of the current issue licenses), the rest of those states represent the usual suspects for Chinese document mills. Connecticut continues to be the most targeted state in the country by foreign counterfeiters.

"Counterfeit drivers licenses have historically been used by those under 21 years of age for the illegal consumption of alcohol, but fake IDs have also been used in criminal enterprises, such as

identity theft cases and immigration fraud," said Casey Durst, CBP Director of the Baltimore Field Office.

And, as we continuously remind lawmakers, fake IDs are also used by terrorists to travel, open bank accounts, hide from law enforcement, lease safe houses, rent trucks, and board airplanes.

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## **Complex Car Theft Rings Using Fake IDs Expanding from Chicago**

Chicago police are alerting car dealers nationwide about a complex identity theft scheme using fake driver's licenses to purchase automobiles throughout the Chicago area. In the scheme, fraudsters buy vehicles worth \$50,000 or more through transactions that begin through an online portal. The thieves select a car for purchase and fill out credit applications on the internet. Next, police say, a criminal will "create a phony email account in the victim's name as well as a fake driver's license with the victim's information, and they use applications whose phone numbers are not traceable."

According to the Chicago Police Department, police are "fielding at least three requests a week to investigate and recover vehicles that were purchased via identity theft and shipped to Chicago from out of state." CPD mentioned that vehicles have been recovered from Utah, Florida, Texas, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. These transactions are harming innocent people and Chicago police are asking dealers to be extremely vigilant in monitoring online loan applications and associated paperwork.

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## **Man Tries Fraudulent Pennsylvania ID with Matching Credit Card to Rent Vehicle**

In yet another story of someone using a fraudulent credit card with a matching fraudulent driver's license to rent a vehicle, we bring you back to Pennsylvania. Michael Moss was caught because his Pennsylvania ID "was quickly determined to be fraudulent" by a police officer called to the scene as he tried to rent a car. He was denied the vehicle and arrested for unlawful use of a fraudulent driver's license and obstructing identification. But Moss could have chosen from countless counterfeit document mills that pump out high quality Pennsylvania IDs that may not have aroused suspicion in the first place. It's still far too easy for impostors to rent cars (and trucks) with fake IDs. Once a criminal has a vehicle under a fraudulent identity, he can more easily escape from the law. That's why terrorists are instructed to rent vehicles under fake identities - especially by the ISIS training manual. The ability for criminals and terrorists to use fake IDs to rent vehicles is a dangerous vulnerability that we are working hard to close!

[Click here for the story](#)

## **Murder Suspect Arrested Before Trying to Use a Fake ID to Board an Airplane**

Swift police action prevented a murder suspect from escaping on an airplane with a ticket he purchased using a fake ID. Rigoberto Rauda was arrested at Bush Intercontinental Airport in



have already identified 10 to 15 victims and expect there are many more to come.

"The most shocking thing to me was that she was able to do all this by getting mail out of mail boxes," one of the victims said. "If you don't have a locking mailbox, you're at risk. It's astonishingly easy to do."

The case broke when one of Hall's victims, Chelsea Rigney, received a photo from a bail bondsman, alerting her that the woman pictured was trying to use Chelsea's sister's financial information. "I messaged her back and said no that's not my sister. I don't know who that is," Rigney said. Then she started getting returned checks in her mailbox that had supposedly been written by her sister. "Bounced checks all over Shawnee and Oklahoma City for my sister, and my sister has been in Arizona the past two years."

Using facial recognition software on the photo, Rigney was able to match it to Brittany Hall. Then, when Rigney realized someone had put her mail on hold, she checked with the post office and was told the person who did it used her sister's information and the email address of a woman named Tammy Burgard's. Rigney contacted Burgard, who told her that Hall is her tenant. Chelsea and Tammy took the information they had to Det. Lt. Ken Vanduser at the Pottawatomie Sheriff's Office. Shortly thereafter, a car Hall was driving was impounded, and when the car's owner went to pick it up, they found a bag of other people's checks, mail, driver's license numbers, addresses, and financial documentation.

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## Technical Amendment to REAL ID Act May Bring Slight Changes if Passed

On September 26, the United States House of Representatives passed a technical amendment to the REAL ID Act of 2005 that could expand eligibility for the more secure driver's licenses. If approved by the Senate, the "REAL ID Act Modification for Freely Associated States Act" would amend the law to include citizens of the Pacific Freely Associated States (FAS) to the pool of jurisdictions that can achieve REAL ID compliance and issue IDs for federal purposes, bringing REAL ID compliant driver's licenses and ID cards to approximately 180,000 additional people.

The FAS include the Republic of the Marshall Islands (the Marshalls), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Palau (Palau), which are small, independent island countries that were once governed by the U.S. as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands after World War II. Although these countries are independent, they still maintain close ties with the U.S. and are eligible to receive funds from U.S. federal agencies. They also represent highly important strategic outposts for our military bases.

Although we think that the REAL ID Act of 2005 was expertly written and implemented and have staunchly resisted previous attempts to change or water it down, this technical amendment does not alter the major principles of the Act or regulations in any significant way. Quite simply, the "REAL ID Act Modification for Freely Associated States Act" accommodates those citizens of the FAS that already have almost equivalent rights as U.S. citizens and bolsters our relationship with much needed friends in the Pacific. That said, we do not wish for Congress to create an open door for further amendments to REAL ID. This change will require that the Act undergo a regulatory process in which the regulations must be rewritten. We will keep a careful eye on the bill as it moves to the U.S. Senate and be on the front line to fight any further changes if we find that they threaten the intentions of the Act and its benefits to public safety and homeland security. There will be no slippery slope.

[Click here for the law](#)

## **Kentucky Begins REAL ID Rollout in January**

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Greg Thomas gets it. As the bluegrass state gets ready to roll out upgrades to its IDs that bring it into compliance with REAL ID in January, Thomas said that "a license is more than a pass to drive- it's used widely for everything from making age-restricted purchases to signing a lease."

Thomas understands how important REAL ID compliance is. And not only are licenses used for housing or buying alcohol, like he mentions, but also for renting trucks and boarding airplanes. Terrorists get it, too, and that's why they seek out IDs from states that aren't yet in compliance. We are thrilled that Kentucky is joining the vast majority of states coming into REAL ID compliance. Kentucky residents can rest assured that their driver's licenses and ID cards will soon be better protected from criminals, thieves, and terrorists.

[Click here for the story](#)

## **Better Late than Never: New Jersey Becomes REAL ID Compliant in Summer 2019**

New Jersey plans to begin issuing REAL ID compliant driver's licenses in about a year from now, just before the 2020 deadline set by the Department of Homeland Security. If the state is successful in its rollout, New Jersey residents will need to rush to the Motor Vehicle Commission to be able to use their state IDs for federal purposes, like boarding an airplane.

"One of the advantages of being a little bit later than other states is we've been able to learn from their issues and their challenges," says MVC chief administrator Sue Fulton. "What we are going to do is reduce our volume in advance of REAL ID, instead of waiting until we have blocks and blocks of lines of people like other states have had." Fulton says that the MVC is already making upgrades to online services to prepare for the expected crowds of people who need to upgrade their licenses.

Congress passed the REAL ID law in 2005 requiring new standards for driver's licenses for identification to gain access to federal buildings, airports, and military bases.

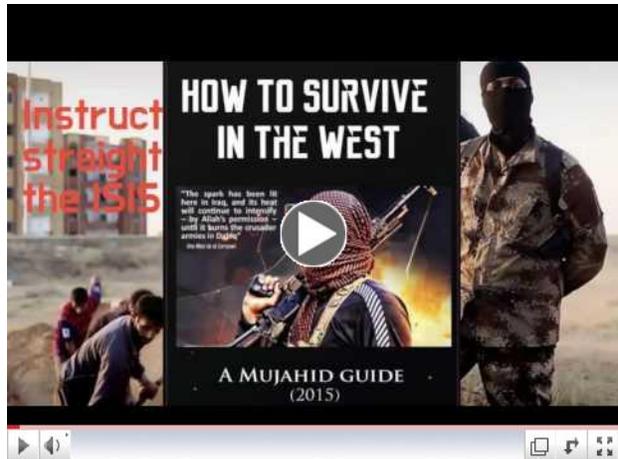
[Click here for the story](#)

# Pennsylvania Gets Ready for REAL ID Rollout in Spring

Good news for Pennsylvania residents - the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has begun pre-qualifying residents for a Real ID driver's license. The new licenses, which will be available in March, will allow Pennsylvanians to board domestic flights and access military installations after October 2020. Those who want a Real ID will need to provide proof of current address, plus documents such a birth certificate or passport.

[Click here for the story](#)

## Support Keeping Identities Safe



See how we help keep IDs out of the hands of criminals and terrorists!



Check out our Keeping Identities Safe for KIDS program, providing IDs for children!

## How are we fighting driver's license fraud?

- By raising awareness
  - By working with law enforcement
  - By helping states comply with REAL ID
  - By working with state legislators all over the country
  - By providing research
  - By working every day to protect your identity documents!
- We can only continue to do this with your support*

[Click here for more!](#)



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