



**Our newsletters will now arrive in your inbox once every month! In this issue:**

[REAL ID Compliance Update: What's with Washington State?](#)

[Trucks and Fake IDs: A Lethal Combination Waiting to Happen](#)

[Do Motorists Save in States that Issue Diver Privilege Cards?](#)



## **What are Washington State's REAL ID Problems?**

By Andrew Meehan

In December 2013, DHS announced that it would be enforcing REAL ID, starting at federal buildings and expanding lastly to airports. At the beginning of this year, DHS announced that TSA would begin enforcing REAL ID at the airports starting in 2018. What's holding Washington State up and what other related problems will it have?

*State Legislation Prohibits the State From Implementing the REAL ID Standards. In*

2007, Washington State enacted [Senate Bill 5087](#), which prohibited the Washington Department of Licensing from implementing the REAL ID standards unless the state certified to the legislature that the federal government would cover the entire cost of meeting the REAL ID standards, and that it would ensure that the privacy of Washington State residents would be protected. When the bill was passed, the final regulations of the REAL ID Act had not been released. The legislature had enacted a law without knowing what the final REAL ID standards would look like. When the final rule for the REAL ID Act was published in 2008, the standards were substantially less expensive and onerous on the states.

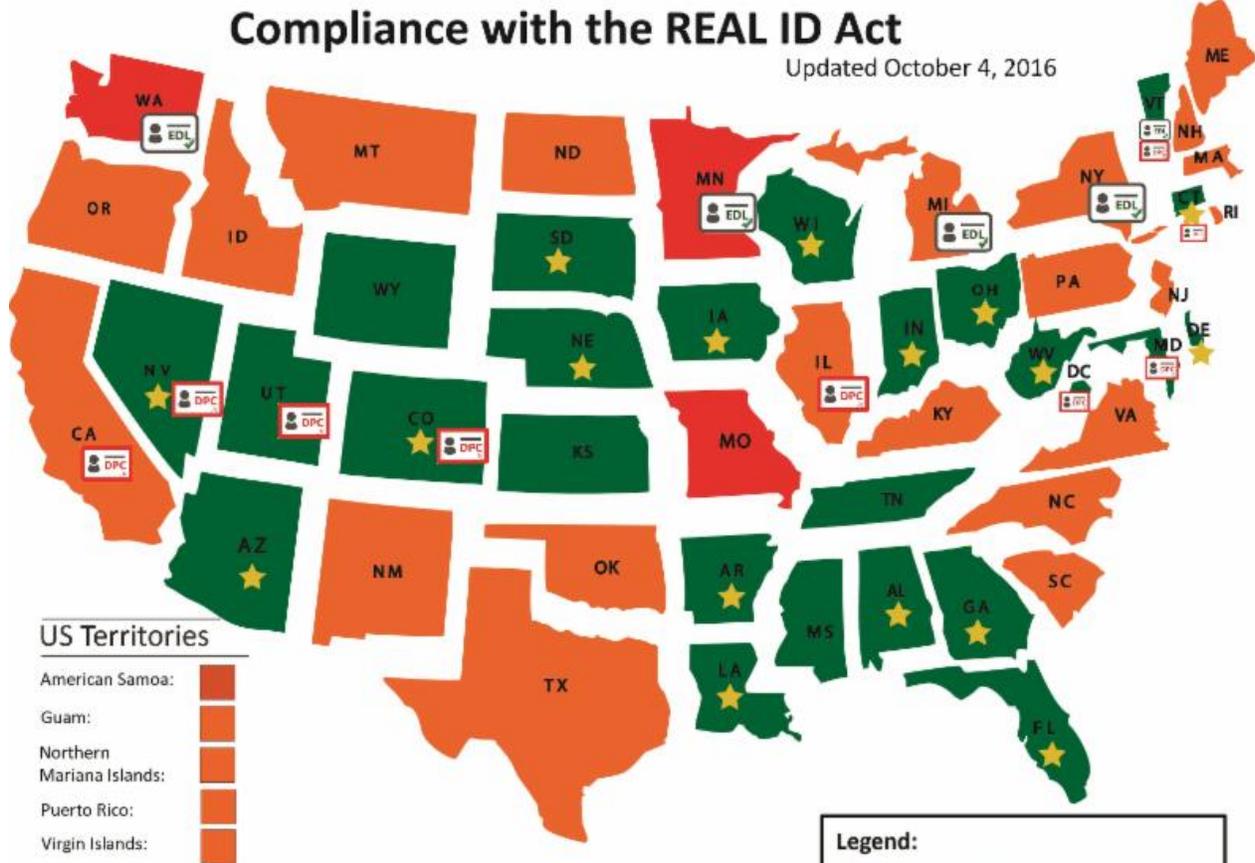
*Washington State Does Not Require Proof of Lawful Status.* Washington State is the only state that issues a normal driver's license without requiring an immigration check. While several states have enacted legislation that authorizes states to issue driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants over the past several years, those licenses are issued in accordance with the REAL ID standards: they are physically different in color and design and they include the phrase "Not for Official Purposes" on the face of the license. The REAL ID Act requires that states to verify the lawful status of an applicant before issuing a license. Foreign visitors do not have the same documentation as US Citizens such as a passport or birth certificate. As such, REAL ID requires that the states leverage the immigration adjudication process to verify the identity of a foreign visitor.

*Cost of the EDLs.* When we launched the program in 2009, the cost of the Washington State Enhanced ID was \$35. Over the years, the cost for an EID has doubled and tripled. And yet, since that time we have reimbursed parents for over 400 EIDs. To pay for a \$16 billion transportation package, the legislature and governor increased the cost of the EID to \$108, which took effect this past July (Side note, EIDs were meant to be an alternative to the U.S. Passport which only costs \$135). However, in spite of that precipitous increase, the additional fees will only generate less than 1% of the total cost of the transportation package. This latest increase makes the Washington State enhanced ID the most expensive in the country. Coming in second is New York, which charges \$107.50 at the most. Vermont charges \$81.00, and Michigan and Minnesota charge \$45 and \$40.00, respectively. The irony of that is that the enhanced driver's licenses of those states are made in Washington state at the same facility as the Washington state EID.

*Passport Problem.* In 2007, when the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative took effect, passport applications surged. Because passports have a 10 year term, there will likely be a surge in passport renewals. The State Department [issued an advisory this past June](#) advising travelers to renew their passports. For states that do not issue compliant REAL ID driver's licenses, the strain on the State Department will likely be greater for travelers who need to travel domestically.

# Compliance with the REAL ID Act

Updated October 4, 2016



The federal REAL ID Act of 2005 is an anti-terrorism law aimed at making it more difficult for terrorists and criminals to hide their identities by fraudulently obtaining a driver's license. REAL ID prohibits federal agencies from accepting driver's licenses that do not meet certain standards set by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). There is current enforcement of the REAL ID Act at military bases and restricted federal buildings. States that have been granted extensions will have their statuses reviewed at the deadline.

**Keeping IDentities Safe®**  
[www.idsecuritynow.org](http://www.idsecuritynow.org)

**Legend:**

- States certified by DHS as compliant with REAL ID that have the REAL ID Gold Star on their license
- States certified by DHS as compliant with REAL ID
- States that have been granted an extension until October 10, 2016
- States that are not compliant and currently face enforcement
- States offering driving privilege cards or driving only cards to undocumented immigrants
- States that offer Enhanced Driver's Licenses (EDLs) and Enhanced Identification Cards (EIDs) that may be deemed acceptable by the Department of Homeland Security.

## Timeline of Recent Events for REAL ID:

**January 8, 2016:** DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson announces that, "Effective January 22, 2018, air travelers with a driver's license or identification card issued by a state that does not meet the requirements of the REAL ID Act (unless that state has been granted an extension to comply with the Act) must present an alternative form of identification acceptable to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in order to board a commercial domestic flight."

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2016/01/08/statement-secretary-jeh-c-johnson-final-phase-real-id-act-implementation>

**July 15, 2016:** TSA releases its first notice on REAL ID, "REAL ID and Air Travel," advising the public about the effective dates of REAL ID and alternative identification.

[https://www.tsa.gov/sites/default/files/resources/realid\\_factsheet\\_071516-508.pdf](https://www.tsa.gov/sites/default/files/resources/realid_factsheet_071516-508.pdf)

**October 14, 2016:** States that have extensions to comply with the REAL ID Act will expire.

**January 30, 2017:** Military bases and federal facilities start enforcing REAL ID on states that do not have an extension to meet the requirements of the Act.

---

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

---

### **A Terrorist can Rent a 26 foot Truck ID with a Fake ID Easier than a Kid can Sneak into a Bar**

Trucks are a key terrorist tool for mass destruction. In 1995, Timothy McVeigh rented a 20 foot Ryder and packed it with 4,800 pounds of ammonium nitrate he exploded into a 30 foot crater under the Murrah building in Oklahoma City, taking 168 lives. Terrorists in Britain, Israel, Canada, and North Carolina have since followed suit, running vehicles over sidewalks and through barriers to barrel over the unsuspecting. In 2010, al-Qaeda called the truck, "[the ultimate mowing machine... not to mow grass but mow down the enemies of Allah](#)". Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel took that to heart when, in July 2016, he walked into a rental company in France and said, "[I want the biggest, most powerful vehicle you have.](#)" He walked out with the keys to a 20-ton refrigerator truck he plowed through a national celebration in Nice, taking 86 lives, including Americans on vacation.

*Could a similar truck attack happen here?*

Absolutely. Since the Oklahoma City bombing, counter terrorism officials have been [running through truck-borne terrorism situations](#) over and over, including live scenarios in downtown Los Angeles, at Los Angeles International Airport, and the Port of Los Angeles. But they're missing the key weapon terrorists are trained to use first in order to get behind the wheel of a truck - a fake ID.

McVeigh [hand-made a counterfeit South Dakota driver's license](#) with a heated iron and a typewriter he used to rent his Ryder truck. But today, anyone with the internet and an address can order [a high quality fake ID from China](#). If Bouhlel walked into a U-haul store in America this afternoon looking for a "mowing machine", he would simply need to show a fake ID before he got to pick anything from a cargo van to a 26-foot behemoth with a 20,000 pound capacity.

Whether he is on a terror watch list, has warrants out for his arrest, or is simply

trying to hide his identity, as instructed in [the al-Qaeda and ISIS training manuals](#), all he would need to show is the ever-popular counterfeit Connecticut, the perpetually produced Pennsylvania, the dark web only Ohio, the unexpiring Arizona, or the always unfamiliar Maine. Or, it doesn't even have to be from a state. According to the U-haul website, [foreign driver's licenses](#) are also accepted for rentals. I don't know how to verify a Yemeni driver's license and I can guarantee the guy at the cash register doesn't either.

U-haul attendees make no effort to verify a driver's license, they simply check the name and the date. How do I know this? I called up a U-haul store and asked them what system they use to verify licenses before renting a truck. I told them that my fictional friend is a privacy fanatic who needs to move but doesn't want to hand over his information. The worker assured me that there is no scanning of licenses so I asked to speak to a supervisor to confirm. A customer service representative assured me that stores are instructed to simply look at the name and the expiration of a license before handing over the keys to a truck. Any truck.

My research points to a number of people actively using fake IDs to rent trucks. Following is an anonymous online post from July 8, 2016, just days before the Nice, France truck attack, and its responses:

*"Anyone ever use their fake ID for a uhaul before? I know that you only have to be 18, but I lost my real ID this week, and haven't had a chance to get into the DMV yet... so I'm wondering what the ID checking process is. Will they just keep a record of my ID information, or will they do a background check?"*

*"I had a friend who wasn't old enough to get a rental car once, so he got a u haul and took it to six flags"*

*"i work at Uhaul in Georgia, when someone hands me the ID , all we do is put in the license number, make sure its not expired and your date of birth ( must be older than 18) . I actually just rented a car last week for a road trip to socal. I just went to my airport (SFO) and just chose Hertz cause they had a good rate. When I went up to the counter the guy just asked for me drivers license and a credit card. He then took my New NY [fake ID] and went to go make a photocopy of it, including my credit card. Then he just gave it back to me and I filled out some other paperwork. I was in and out within 25 minutes."*

It's not just kids renting U-haul trucks with fake IDs, it's criminals, too. In an incident also days before the France attack, a Brooklyn man with [20 suspensions on his license](#) was arrested while trying to drive a U-haul truck in the no trucks lane through the Holland Tunnel in New York. According to the New York Daily News:

*"A person must have a valid driver's license to lease a U-Haul truck, the company website says. But U-Haul officials said their system showed no one with Lewis' name with a current rental contract originating in New York. It is remained unclear how the man managed to get the truck."*

Duh. With a fake ID.

In another New York incident, a teenager was launched [ten feet into the air](#) and critically injured when a man driving a U-haul despite a suspended license slammed into the 17-year on his way to school. We rely on our driver's licenses for so much in everyday life, yet many are so easy to counterfeit. It's time that we all learn how important driver's licenses are to our public safety and national security. It's time we make driver's licenses more counterfeit resistant, shut down counterfeit document mills, and use existing verification measures at truck rentals shops to stop criminals and terrorists from exploiting our identity documents before it's too late.

---

# *Lower-Tier Driver's Licenses*

---

## **Do Motorists Save in States that Issue Driver Privilege Cards? Politifact Investigated**

More and more states are beginning to issue driver privilege cards to applicants who cannot provide proof of lawful presence, often based on the theory that it creates better safety and lower insurance prices. The theory is that when someone is in an accident with an undocumented immigrant, the undocumented immigrant likely won't have a driver's license or insurance. By licensing these drivers, it would make it easier for them to obtain auto insurance which would create a safer environment and more evenly distributed insurance costs to all motorists.

At least that's what many state policy makers are claiming, including Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, who is currently involved in the debate of whether or not to issue driver's licenses to illegal immigrants in her state. Gov. Raimondo says that when licenses are issued without requiring proof of lawful presence in other states, "insurance premiums for everybody have gone down."

Politifact, a fact-checking organization that writes mostly on misstatements from Washington, decided to look into this issue. When Politifact journalists approached Gov. Raimondo's office about the statement, they were referred to a 2015 study from the Southern Economic Journal which attempted to estimate the costs associated with denying undocumented immigrants driver's licenses. The results indicated that the policy creates a \$17.22 increase to insurance costs per driver, or about 2% of a consumer's total cost per year. However, this study did not directly

look at the issue in question and, according to the study's co-author, Kenneth Jameson, the number is "far from firm". Jameson also indicated that insurance rates could rise if a large number of undocumented immigrants who sign up for insurance policies are in the younger driver bracket, which has the highest likelihood of automobile accidents. Politifact also asked the Chief Actuary from the Insurance Information Institute, James Lynch, who said that he had never seen any evidence to prove or disprove the theory.

Another report on the matter not mentioned in the Politifact research was a 2011 study on New Mexico done by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. That research showed that a policy in the state that allowed the DMV to issue regular, full-term driver's licenses to any applicant without requiring proof of lawful presence had an "insignificant impact" on the in New Mexico. The study also found that, on average, 1 percent increase in undocumented immigrants relative to the labor force increases the uninsured motorists rate by 0.54 percentage points and that a 1 percent increase in the state unemployment increases the uninsured motorists rate by 1.74 percent.

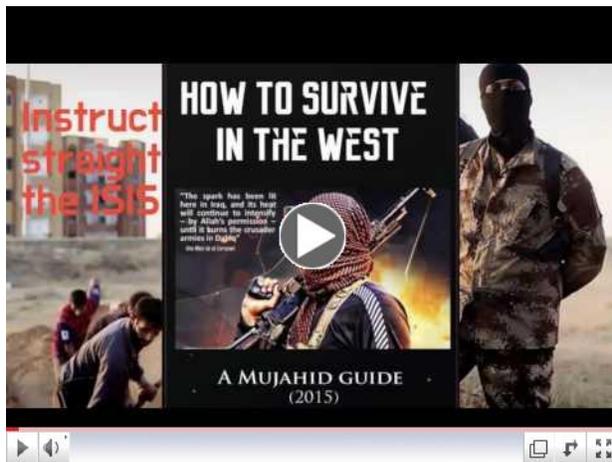
The final decision from Politifact on the claim that licensing undocumented immigrants will lower insurance costs for all motorists was ruled "mostly true".

[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

---

## Keeping Identities Safe in the News:

---

**MAX BLUESTEIN IN THE DAILY CALLER**

Time for a National Strategy on Fake IDs



**ANDREW MEEHAN IN THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

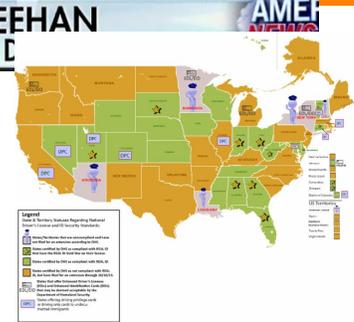
2016 a bellwether year for REAL ID



**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*

**ANDREW MEEHAN ON FOR A SECURE D**



[Click here for more!](#)

**HELP US KEEP FIGHTING FOR YOUR IDENTITY SECURITY**

Keeping Identities Safe  
[info@idsecuritynow.org](mailto:info@idsecuritynow.org) | <http://idsecuritynow.org>



**SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAILS**



**SHARE THIS EMAIL**

Follow us on **twitter**

 Like us on Facebook