



Keeping IDentities Safe®

In the **NEWS**

Why there's so much confusion about REAL ID and PA driver's licenses at airports

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Millions of Pennsylvanians are expected to have invalid licenses in 2020.

Don't worry too much about the signs in airports warning how a Pennsylvania ID won't get you onto an airplane in January 2018. For one thing, Pennsylvania just got another extension Thursday. Your Pennsylvania ID will work for at least another year. So you're good for now. But you should worry later.

The Department of Homeland Security is mandating all states be compliant with its REAL ID licensing program by October 2020. It will give no further extensions. Pennsylvania, after nearly a decade of flouting the requirement, began working toward compliance in May and expects to offer REAL ID licenses by spring 2019. Still, the state expects nearly 90 percent of residents won't have the requisite driver's license to get them aboard a plane when that day finally comes in 2020.

"These dates are here. They're real," said Pa. Rep. Ed Neilson of Northeast Philly. "And I don't believe we're doing enough." Neilson isn't satisfied with the REAL ID bill overwhelmingly passed by the General Assembly and signed by Gov. Tom Wolf in May.

Though it allows for Pennsylvania to begin the process of complying with the Department of Homeland Security's REAL ID demands for the state's driver's licenses and ID cards, it simply

gives Pennsylvania residents the option to get a REAL ID. The REAL ID is a driver's license or identification card that meets security criteria set by the DHS shortly after 9/11. PennDOT will make the cards available in March 2019. REAL ID allows for the collecting of information in a central database and, according to the federal government, greater security.

REAL ID will require most Pennsylvanians to make an in-person trip to their nearest PennDOT center, and includes a fee that has yet to be set, followed by standard renewal fees in the future. Some residents may oppose the new IDs because of cost, others out of fear of turning information over to DHS. It was this latter fear that led Pennsylvania in 2012 to pass a law with bipartisan support that prevented Pennsylvania from working toward REAL ID compliance. It wasn't reversed until the new legislation was passed in May.

Whether cost or concern about the federal government keeps people away, PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Driver and Vehicle Services Kurt Myers said he anticipates only 1.3 million of the approximately 10.6 million people who have either driver's licenses or ID cards in the state will obtain a REAL ID by October 2020. That leaves 9 million people who would either need a passport to board an airplane or enter a military facility, or risk being turned away. Another 1.2 million people are expected to get REAL ID after the October 2020 deadline.

"I think it's important the customer has a choice as to whether or not they want to get a REAL ID or maintain an existing driver's license," Myers said. PennDOT has plans for raising awareness about REAL ID by sending mailers to driver's license holders starting next spring. It will also coordinate social media and other marketing campaigns.

But its efforts have been criticized by advocates for REAL ID. The bill passed in May required PennDOT to produce a report for the General Assembly within 90 days. It responded with a two-page report that didn't satisfy Neilson or REAL ID proponent Brian Zimmer, who has long been speaking with Pennsylvania legislators about the subject.

"It's just got nothing in it," said Zimmer, president of Keeping Identities Safe/Coalition for a Secure Driver's License. Neilson said making REAL ID optional has caused more confusion for a process few people understand and many know nothing about. He's heard of constituents who don't understand why they can't get one until 2019 and others who still have no idea what REAL ID is.

"People are going to get hurt by it," Neilson said. "There's no doubt someone's going to get hurt."

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Was your driver's license number stolen in the Equifax hack?

Probably - if you used a web or app service to file your taxes online and provided your driver's license number. Reports have surfaced that among the 143 million Americans whose information was compromised in one of the largest data breaches in history, 10.9 million driver's license numbers were lost to hackers. Equifax won contracts to provide identity verification services for the Social Security Service and IRS, which permitted the company to access tremendous amounts of personally identifiable information. Identity security experts across the country are warning that if you believe your driver's license data to have been compromised, you should consider reporting the license lost or stolen and order a new one.

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The ISIS truck terrorist in Canada was flagged in 2015 for extremist ideology

First he drove his Chevy Malibu into a crowd in Edmonton, Alberta, then tried again with a truck. A Somali man, deported from the United States in 2011 and later admitted to Canada as a refugee, carried the flag of Islamic State in his car during the attack. Abdulahi Hasan Sharif changed his name before entering Canada but was still flagged in 2015 for extremist ideologies. Police interviewed him at the time, but charges were not warranted after an "exhaustive investigation." He now faces five counts of attempted murder for stabbing a police officer after hitting him with a car and later plowing a truck into pedestrians on a busy street, injuring four. He also faces charges of dangerous driving, criminal flight causing bodily harm, and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

"We condemn the cowardly terror attacks on a police officer and pedestrians that occurred late last night in Edmonton, Canada. Law enforcement authorities from the United States are in

touch with their Canadian counterparts to offer assistance with the ongoing investigation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, as we hope for their speedy and complete recovery," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters.

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Trump tries to crack down on terror travel. Will it be enough?

Islamic terror seems to be striking across the globe almost every week now. Just this weekend, a Somali refugee targeted police and pedestrians in yet another brutal vehicular ramming attack - this time in Edmonton, Canada. Edmonton police have the suspect in custody, who they report had an Islamic State flag in the front seat of his rolling weapon. Despite successful attacks throughout Europe, America remains the number one target. And this strike to our neighbor in the north shows that ISIS is getting closer and closer to attacking us again.

The terrorist threat is one of the reasons President Donald Trump announced the establishment of enhanced national security measures to better protect us from violent extremism. Part of these security measures entails "minimum requirements for international cooperation to support visa and immigration vetting and adjudications for individuals seeking entry to the United States," according to the White House. The new procedures are said to safeguard Americans from terrorism and transnational crime.

The President has expanded upon an executive order signed earlier this year, 13780. He has instituted new requirements on issuing electronic passports, sharing criminal data, reporting lost and stolen passports, and sharing more information on travelers. This is to better identify people trying to enter the United States and the national security risks they might present. It also pushes foreign governments to better share information on certain individuals abroad before they reach our shores, like their identity documents and passports.

While this is great progress on vetting who is coming into our country, it doesn't solve a number of vulnerabilities and loopholes that criminals and terrorists may exploit. Namely, the driver's license loophole.

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ROGUE'S GALLERY

The most careful criminal got caught

Tonia Latrice Lewis used a fake ID and falsified records to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars from financial institutions across the State of Maryland. The 47 year old submitted over 30 loan applications in the names of other individuals without their consent at a number of credit unions throughout the state. Lewis fabricated a variety of documents to substantiate the loan applications and stolen identities, including paystubs. She also used fake email accounts, burner phones, and abandoned or non-existent addresses for contact information.

Lewis took great care to conceal her own identity. She targeted financial institutions that

allowed her to apply for loans and submit back-up documentation online so that her image would not be caught on surveillance video. When withdrawing funds, she typically wore hats, glasses, or scarves that obscured her face, and even took steps to cover up surveillance cameras by covering them with aluminum foil. She also paid to run detailed credit reports and credit checks on her victims, which gave her access to extensive personal identifiable information, which enabled her to pass some of the security checks put in place by the credit unions. Those careful actions helped Lewis steal \$249,858.29 out of the \$600,000 she applied for. On her victims' dime, Lewis supported a lavish lifestyle, with extravagant jewelry, expensive clothing, and heavy gambling.

Eventually, institutions were able to identify additional fraudulent applications linked to Lewis through IP address information, email addresses, aliases used, and other contact information. Smart investigative work allowed authorities to locate and arrest Lewis and she was sentenced on August 18th. For her crimes, Lewis faced a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison and a fine of \$1 million for the bank fraud, 30 years in prison and a fine of \$1 million for the mail fraud, and mandatory minimum penalty of two years in prison for the aggravated identity theft. However, she was recently sentenced to only 70 months in prison for bank fraud, mail fraud, and aggravated identity theft. The court did order Lewis to forfeit and pay over \$249,000 in restitution.

Lewis's crime is not uncommon. Despite the fact that law enforcement did eventually catch her, other similar criminals are carrying out similar plots and manipulating the system all over the country. Lewis likely learned her advanced techniques from another career criminal on the loose - and may have taught them to another budding criminal. Without proper safeguards, identity theft and financial crimes can continue to run rampant. That is why it is so important to secure your identity.

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Police in New Jersey catch a "ghost"

Olvy R. Torres left the scene of a fatal North Bergen, New Jersey crash, but when authorities recovered the fleeing crook, they found \$1 million in cash in his possession, as well as bags of diamonds and fake IDs.

"Why would a person with multiple identities have \$1 million in cash and a \$40,000 a year income. That is not an accident," the judge presiding over Torres's case said. Torres has been charged with laundering more than \$500,000.

The prosecutor said multiple IDs were found in Torres's possession, including a Florida driver's license with Torres's picture and another man's name. A medical marijuana ID card was also found with Torres's information and the address of a gas station/car wash in California. A TD

Bank card, a Social Security card, and a title for a motorcycle, all in other people's names, were also found in the home.

"Quite frankly, there is no residence attributed to him," Prosecuting Attorney Seborowski said. "He is literally like a ghost. He can go anywhere in the country with any of these IDs and nobody would know."

The judge ordered that Torres remain in custody throughout his prosecution, saying, "this defendant has multiple identities and law-abiding people don't have multiple identities, they have one."

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Defrauding Dollywood

Five crooks are indicted for fraudulently obtaining grants from the Dollywood Foundation meant to provide relief to Gatlinburg wildfire victims. The suspects are accused of using fraudulent rental leases to obtain temporary driver's licenses with corresponding addresses via a service the Tennessee Department of Safety had established to help wildfire victims whose licenses had been lost in the fires.

The indictments allege the scammers presented the temporary driver's licenses and leases to the My People Fund as proof they had been displaced by the wildfires when, in fact, none of the five were impacted by the fires. Two of them didn't even live in the effected county, and a third was in jail at the time, records show. The Dollywood Foundation realized that temporary driver's licenses could be easily falsified, so the foundation wisely stopped accepting those as proof of displacement by the fire disaster.

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California DMV employees prove that crime (usually) doesn't pay

Two California Department of Motor Vehicles workers, 38 year old Kari Scattaglia and 51 year old Lisa Terraciano, were charged with conspiracy to commit bribery and identity fraud after their scheme to provide trucking licenses for bribes was broken up. In the investigation, undercover federal law enforcement agents posing as truck-driving students met with the owners of two southern California truck-driving schools. The agents agreed to pay to obtain trucking licenses without passing the required tests. The truck-driving school owners then paid

off California DMV workers to enter passing scores so that the licenses could be issued. Investigators are currently looking into what other DMV employees may also be involved in the scheme, which started as far back as September 2014.

According to court documents, "Scattaglia, Terraciano and the other DMV co-conspirators repeatedly, and without authorization, accessed the DMV computer database and altered DMV records to incorrectly and fraudulently indicate that the truckers had passed the written examinations for Class A, Class B, and/or Class C CDLs." Scattaglia also repeatedly accessed DMV computers to alter records in order to show that people had passed behind-the-wheel driving exams. Those applicants had either not taken those tests or failed them. "In total, the broker co-conspirators were paid no less than \$18,600 for the issuance of fraudulent licenses through defendants Scattaglia, Terraciano and the other DMV co-conspirators...", court documents say.

Many of the fraudulent applicants were seeking Class A licenses that allow drivers to operate a truck weighing more than 26,001 pounds. This comes at a time when trucks are being used as terrorist weapons around the world. One of these fraudulent applicants could have easily been part of a terrorist cell seeking a Class A license to gain access to one of the deadliest terrorist weapons of the world. Or, the licenses could have simply fallen into the hands of a bad driver - which could be just as deadly. We can only hope that the corrupt employees that were caught are the only DMV employees in California taking bribes. We also hope that in the future, California can catch these crooks on its own, without needing federal investigators.

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Some states still lag on REAL ID compliance

Twenty six states already comply with REAL ID, but some are far behind and may face enforcement by the Department of Homeland Security. One particular state at risk of its driver's licenses not being accepted for federal purposes is Minnesota. Reports on Minnesota's REAL ID conundrum have been written with headlines like, "Minnesota gets one Real ID extension, but will need another soon". However, Minnesota didn't actually get the one year extension that its Governor requested. Instead, DHS simply granted Minnesota a "grace period" that runs through Jan. 22, 2018. That allows Minnesotans only about 90 days from now to keep using their driver's licenses to get through airport security before TSA starts enforcing the REAL ID Act, which will require travelers resident in non-compliant states to obtain alternate identification, like passports. The state won't roll out Real ID licenses until October 2018 at the earliest.

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Facial recognition technology at NY DMVs continues to catch crooks

Michigan has started to issued REAL ID compliant driver's licenses, ahead of actual Department of Homeland Security approval of the states compliance application. Michigan Secretary of State offices now offer REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and ID cards, which are marked with a gold circle with a star inside. In addition, Michigan offers Enhanced Driver's Licenses and ID Cards, which also are REAL ID-compliant and are marked with a U.S. flag.

Under the federal REAL ID Act, Michigan residents boarding a domestic flight or entering certain federal facilities, military bases and nuclear power plants must show a REAL ID-compliant document beginning Oct. 1, 2020. The federal standards were drafted in response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks based on recommendations from the 9/11 Commission. The REAL ID law sets document and security protocols for the production of driver's licenses and ID cards, including the use of features to prevent illegal copying or altering.

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AAMVA Announces Proof of Concept for Mobile Licenses

At its 2017 international conference this summer, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) announced an operational Proof of Concept for a mobile driver's license (mDL). In putting together this concept, AAMVA commissioned a working group that includes DMV and IT officials from many US states, Canadian provinces, and private companies, with the mission to make mDLs a common means of identity throughout the country. AAMVA also released a short video on how this technology works. [Click here for the video.](#)



Mobile DL Operational Proof-of-Concept

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It's now been 16 years since 9/11 - and the driver's license loophole STILL hasn't been fixed!

Did you know that fake IDs are used for so much more than underage drinking? The 9/11 Commission said that identity documents were as important as weapons for the hijackers. Check out our video to learn how criminals, thieves, and even terrorists use fake IDs to commit their crimes.



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*

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