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COUNTERFEIT IDS: A NATIONAL SECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY THREAT

Queens man who planned a cop-killing rampage using a gun bought with a fake ID sentenced to only three months probation

Last summer, [we wrote about](#) Ranbir Singh Shergill, who bought a Glock 17 handgun in Ohio with a fake ID. His next step would have been a murder rampage against NYPD officers, had he not been arrested. He ordered that fake ID over the internet, an Ohio driver's license, and also purchased 118 rounds of ammunition in Pennsylvania. The FBI was tipped off after he threatened to kill his family. When agents searched his house, they found the gun and ammunition

and arrested him. His next step, dictated by a note on his phone, would have been to:

"Go from dunkin donuts on van wyck after shooting and killing officers they will be wearing coats. And one will be male other female. Then try to kill other nypd officers".

The Ohio license was ordered from a Tor browser, an anonymous internet routing system, and had similar characteristics to the product of Ted Danzig, who makes very high quality fake Ohio licenses, detectable only to the expertly trained eye.

Shergill was charged in federal court to just three months probation. He won't serve any additional jail time and has promised that he doesn't "want to commit any more crimes". He also promised to regularly take medication to treat his violent temperament.

This case very clearly illustrates two serious problems our society faces when dealing with fake IDs. First, that high quality fake IDs, which can be used for many dangerous purposes, are far too easy to obtain. Anyone with the internet and an address can buy a nearly undetectable counterfeit state driver's license or ID card and use that to open bank accounts, rent trucks, buy guns, or even board airplanes. Second, punishments for fake ID related crimes are far too lenient and laws against the use of counterfeit documents are too rarely enforced. Until our legislators and police begin to take counterfeit documents as seriously as the crimes they contribute to, our public safety and national security will remain at risk.

[Click here for the story](#)

New York once again leads the way against fake IDs

New York's Andrew Cuomo is one of the few governors that are taking fake IDs seriously. Last week, he announced a statewide crackdown on counterfeit driver's licenses and ID cards, introducing two months of enforcement sweeps. The sweeps include State Liquor Authority Beverage Control Investigators and Department of Motor Vehicle authorities, combined with underage decoys at over 500 locations across the state, including bars, restaurants, grocery stores, and liquor stores. The purpose of the state sweeps is to deter and prevent the purchase of false identification documents.

Last year's state sweeps yielded 862 fraudulent licenses and 818 arrests,

breaking the previous year's record highs of 751 and 758, respectively. Each establishment charged and convicted with underage sales was fined anywhere from \$2,500 to \$10,000 and their customers presenting the fake IDs were faced with arrest, fines, and revocation of their genuine driver's licenses. \$2.5 million of the revenue generated by the sweeps was used to fund programs at city and state universities focused on preventing underage drinking, substance abuse, and the purchasing of false documents.

Regarding the fake ID crackdown, Governor Cuomo said, "Underage drinking and fake IDs are not only illegal, but can lead to reckless decisions that can have life-altering consequences. These operations will build on our successful efforts to protect our state's youth, safeguard our roadways from impaired drivers, and hold accountable those who seek to enable this dangerous behavior."

[Click here for the story](#)

Four New Yorkers try to scam Rhode Island bank with fake IDs

Four Brooklyn, NY residents were arrested after presenting fake identification documents at a Rhode Island bank. Authorities were tipped off when an alert bank employee in Coventry, RI called police and reported a discrepancy in information regarding a female customer's attempted withdrawal. When police arrived, they found the four suspects in a nearby parked vehicle, allegedly in the middle of a scheme to withdraw thousands of dollars with the fake IDs.

[Click here for the story](#)

Colorado counterfeiter posed as DMV employee

A Westminster, Colorado man received a three-year prison sentence for posing as a Division of Motor Vehicles employee and selling counterfeit driver's licenses. After a lengthy investigation by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, Michael Hopkins, 51, pleaded guilty in October to forgery of a government document and was sentenced in February. Hopkins provided his customers with forged temporary driver's licenses, most of whom had their actual driver's licenses revoked or who were unable to apply for and receive genuine documents. Despite claiming so, Hopkins never actually worked at the Colorado DMV.

[Click here for the story](#)

Who buys fake IDs?

Did you know that fake IDs are used for so much more than underage drinking? They are a toolbox for serious criminals and "weapons" for terrorists. Share Keeping IDentities Safe's new video, "Who Buys Fake IDs?" to spread awareness of how fake IDs represent a very real public safety and national security threat.



Keeping IDentities Safe®

In the **NEWS**

Our study on the cost of non-compliance with REAL ID in Pennsylvania helps push state to standards

Pennsylvania is on the verge of passing legislation to bring the state into compliance with the REAL ID Act of 2005. State legislators passed a law prohibiting Pennsylvania from complying with the federal regulations in 2012, which left PennDOT behind as other states moved forward with the security standards to protect their residents from fraud. However, the mobile news site, Billy Penn, indicates that lawmakers will pass compliance bills within weeks. The article quotes Keeping IDentities Safe President Brian Zimmer on the financial consequences if the state doesn't reach compliance, citing our report that indicates a potential cost of \$1 billion to Keystone State residents who fly once-per-year that will have to obtain passports in order to continue flying on

commercial airplanes.

[Click here for the story](#)

Meehan in LA Times: Don't even think about getting a false ID

A column in the major newspaper of Los Angeles, the LA Times, posed the question of whether passport cards can be used for travel in lieu of a REAL ID compliant driver's license or ID card after enforcement at airports begins in 2018. The responding author correctly noted that if someone is from a non-compliant state after the deadline, a U.S. passport card can be used as identification for domestic air travel - but not for international air travel. Those that live in non-compliant states without passport cards or U.S. passports after the deadline may face secondary screening or be denied boarding for lack of identification. The article also posited that someone from a non-compliant state could fraudulently obtain a license from a compliant state, to which Andrew Meehan, Keeping IDentities Safe Policy Director, succinctly responded, "don't even think about it". Meehan added that false identification charges vary from state to state, but some have made it a penalty, punishable with jail time and hefty fines.

[Click here for the story](#)



New Keeping IDentities Safe report: REAL ID compliance in Pennsylvania could cost residents \$1 billion

Our new report predicts that Pennsylvania air travelers could face \$1 billion in added costs due to their state's non-compliance with REAL ID. This new report projects potential costs by the end of calendar year 2018 for "once a year" travelers from the estimated 60% of Pennsylvania citizens who do not now possess passports range from a best case of \$406 million cost to a worst case of

\$966 million. The government of Pennsylvania should take necessary legal and process changes to come into compliance with the REAL ID Act without delay.

[Click here for the report](#)

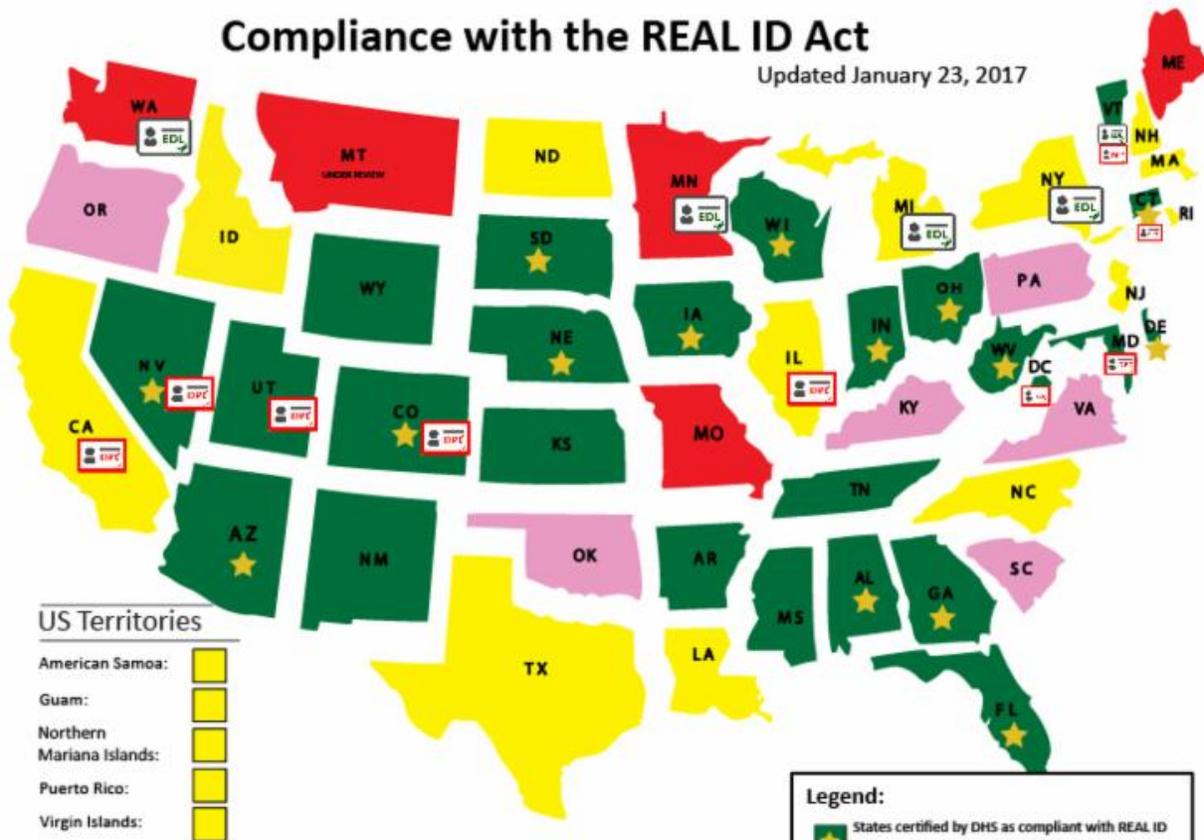
Oklahoma so far behind, REAL ID compliance process may take up to 30 months

The Oklahoma legislature has long resisted the security standards of REAL ID compliance, including enacting a REAL ID prohibition law in 2007. However, 10 years later and with the deadline looming, the state finally passed a law that would bring it into compliance by offering a REAL ID compliant option. But Oklahoma is so far behind that the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety says it won't be issuing REAL ID compliant licenses or ID cards for 24 to 30 months. The department says that the new equipment, training, and security measures will take that much time to implement.

[Click here for the story](#)

Compliance with the REAL ID Act

Updated January 23, 2017



US Territories

- American Samoa:
- Guam:
- Northern Mariana Islands:
- Puerto Rico:
- Virgin Islands:

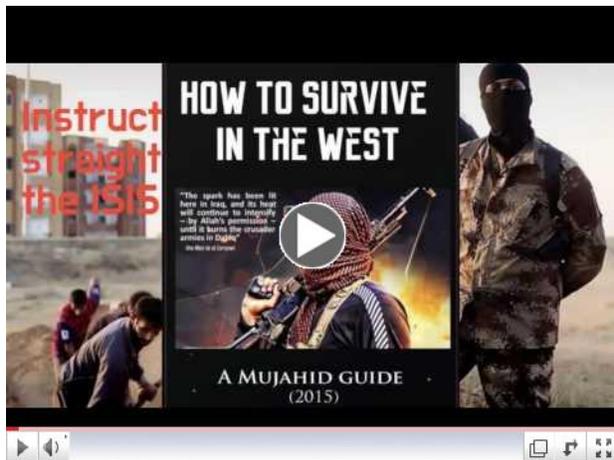
The federal REAL ID Act of 2005 is an anti-terrorism law aimed at making it more difficult for terrorists and criminals to hide their identities by fraudulently obtaining a driver's license. REAL ID prohibits federal agencies from accepting driver's licenses that do not meet certain standards set by 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

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 with a time extension to comply with REAL ID lapsing on October 10, 2017
- States with a time extension to comply with REAL ID lapsing on June 6, 2017
- States not compliant with REAL ID whose residents are unable to use licenses for federal purposes
- 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.

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

Fake IDs and the Truck Attack Threat



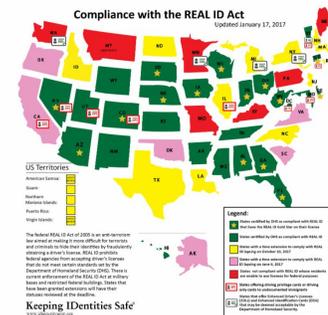
ANDREW MEEHAN IN THE MORNING CALL

REAL ID warning signs in PA

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!](#)



HELP US KEEP FIGHTING FOR YOUR IDENTITY SECURITY

Keeping IDentities Safe
info@idsecuritynow.org | <http://idsecuritynow.org>



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