

REAL ID HISTORY

May 13, 2025

REAL ID violates states' rights and individual privacy rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. DMVs plan to digitize REAL ID, put it on phones, and have remote access to this National ID.

July 22, 2004

The 9/11 Commission releases its final report. recommending the federal government set standards for identification documents.

May 11, 2005

President George W. Bush signs the REAL ID Act into law, establishing federal standards for stateissued IDs.

2005 Senate Floor Debate

Sen. Lamar Alexander refers to REAL ID as "a national identification card," while Sen. Patty Murray expresses concerns about privacy and federal overreach.

March 1, 2007

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issues a Notice of Proposed Rule-making for REAL ID implementation.

September 20, 2007

Maine becomes the first state to enact a law prohibiting participation in the REAL ID Act.

January 29, 2008

DHS publishes the final REAL ID rule, setting compliance requirements for states.

2007-2009

Starting in 2007, 17 states pass legislation refusing participation in REAL ID, and 10 others enact resolutions opposing it.

May 11, 2008

Original Enforcement Date - Set three years after the REAL ID Act was enacted in 2005.

December 31, 2009

First Extension for States - States could request an extension to this date.

May 11, 2011

Second Extension for States - Additional extension granted for states needing more time to comply.

December 1, 2014-December 1, 2017

Phased Enforcement for Cards -For individuals born after December 1, 1964, enforcement began in 2014; for others, in 2017.

Late 2015

The Obama administration announces that starting in 2016, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will enforce REAL ID requirements for air travel.

January 24, 2017

116 Pennsylvania legislators send President Trump a letter saying, "Federalizing driver licensing...usurps" states' rights.

September 10, 2020

100% Compliance Deadline - Revised **Enforcement Date for** Cards - Set as a uniform enforcement date for all individuals.

May 3, 2021

Second COVID-19 Related Extension -DHS extends the enforcement deadline to May 3, 2023, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

October 1, 2021

First COVID-19 Related Extension for Cards -Announced in April 2020 due to the pandemic's impact on DMV operations.

March 2022

Arizona becomes the first state to offer digital driver's licenses compatible with Apple Wallet.

March 9, 2023

DHS further extends the deadline for cardbased compliance to May 7, 2025, citing ongoing challenges.

December 5, 2023

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) testifies before Congress on the future of identity management, highlighting digital ID initiatives.

September 12, 2024

TSA/DHS proposes a rule, allowing phased implementation of REAL ID requirements through

"progressive enforcement" May 7, 2027.

October 15, 2024

31,764 public comments were submitted to TSA from those opposing the proposed rule.

January 14, 2025

DHS publishes the final rule (claiming only 11,000 comments were received) and confirms the May 7, 2025 enforcement date.

February 10, 2025

CCHF launches RefuseRealID.org.

April 9, 2025

CCHF launches its first anti-REAL ID billboard near Dallas, Texas.

April 11, 2025

Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem announces that REAL ID will be required to travel.

April 14, 2025

CCHF publishes "Yes, You Can Fly," a guide on how to fly without a REAL ID, including key quotes from TSA's January 2025 rule.

April 15, 2025

CCHF's policy director Matt Flanders testifies in support of a bipartisan Maine bill (LD 160) to repeal REAL ID.

April 23, 2025

CCHF launches a second Refuse REAL ID billboard in Osprey, FL.

April 24, 2025

CCHF launches a third Refuse REAL ID billboard in Bowling Greens, KY.

April 30, 2025

Oklahoma Senator Sacchieri files a resolution to allow residents to opt out of REAL ID.

May 7, 2025

TSA begins phasedin enforcement of REAL ID for domestic flights and access to federal facilities.

May 5, 2027

Full enforcement of REAL ID begins.

RefuseREALID.org