



## DVS Information Quick Reference Guide

# Real ID

May 2017

The new law requires DVS to begin issuing Real ID compliant licenses and ID cards by Oct. 1, 2018.

### No action required at this time

A REAL ID compliant driver's license won't be available until next year, so there is nothing for driver's license or identification card holders to do at this time. And there is no need to get a new license or identification card unless it's time to renew due to expiration.

### The current situation

Minnesotans can continue to use their current driver's license or identification card as a form of identification to board domestic flights until Jan. 22, 2018.

Minnesotans who plan to visit federal facilities, nuclear power plants and military bases will need to show an alternative form of ID in addition to their state driver's license. Contact the agency in charge of the location you plan to visit to confirm what alternative forms of ID are accepted.

With the passage of this law, the state is now able to seek an extension from the federal government that would allow current Minnesota licenses to be accepted after January 2018 and at federal facilities.

### Am I required to replace my current driver's license or identification card with a REAL ID?

Obtaining a REAL ID is optional and not required.

Minnesotans can choose to obtain a non-REAL ID Act compliant driver's license or identification card.

Minnesotans can also choose to obtain an enhanced driver's license or enhanced identification card, both of which are already REAL ID Act compliant.

### Is the "Real ID" the same as the Enhanced Driver's License (EDL/EID)? Or I currently have an enhanced driver's license. Is that the same as the new "Real ID" license just passed into law? Will I have to replace my current license? What about an Enhanced Driver's License?

An enhanced driver's license (EDL) or enhanced identification card (EID) are among the federally-approved border-crossing documents required under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). EDLs and EIDs allow re-entry into the United States via land and sea from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean. According to the [Dept. of Homeland Security](#), they are also acceptable for official federal purposes such as accessing a federal facility or boarding a commercial aircraft. Individual agency policies may still apply.

If you already possess an EDL/EID they will continue to be accepted for boarding an aircraft or entering federal facilities after MN begins issuing Real ID compliant cards.

Minnesota residents are able to apply for an EDL or EID for \$15 in addition to the standard driver's

license fee. Additional information and requirements are listed on the [DVS website](#).

### How do we apply for the Real ID Minnesota Driver's License or Identification Card?

It is expected that an individual can complete the application for a REAL ID at any Driver's License Agent office.

Applicants will be asked to submit a document such as a birth certificate, U.S. passport, or document issued by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services for proof of identity, date of birth, and lawful presence in the United States. If the name on that document differs from the name they use at present, then they must submit proof of name change. Additionally, a person will have to submit documentation showing their Social Security number (W-2 or Social Security card) and residence address (utility bill or financial statement).

### What about Minnesotans who have driver's licenses with renewal dates before Oct. 2018 or after 2020 (which is when states with extension's licenses would no longer be accepted)?

Individuals that have a driver's license with a renewal date prior to October 2018 will renew their license in the same manner currently in place.

For those with expiration dates after 2020, those individuals may choose a REAL ID compliant or a regular non-REAL ID compliant driver's license at their normal renewal time. The fees for the REAL ID compliant or non-REAL ID compliant driver's license will be the same if renewed at the normal expiration time after 2020.

### Will they have to come in to renew early and pay the fee again?

There is no need to come in and renew a license prior to October 1, 2020. However, Minnesotans may come in early to obtain a REAL ID compliant license or identification card once DVS begins issuing them.

There is a fee for an early renewal, in addition to the standard renewal fee, depending on how many months the REAL ID is obtained before the driver's license or identification card expires:

- \$2 for a renewal 17 months early
- \$4 for a renewal 18-29 months early
- \$6 for a renewal more than 29 months early

### Will they have the option to come in and get a Real ID license at no cost and have the expiration date stay the same as their standard DL?

There is a fee for the REAL ID driver's license. The fees for the REAL ID are the same as a regular driver's license if obtained when the driver's license is up for renewal. There is a fee for an early renewal depending on how many months the REAL ID is obtained before the driver's license expires.

The expiration date of the REAL ID driver's license will remain in the same expiration cycle if obtained at the same time the driver's license is up for renewal. If obtained prior to the normal renewal cycle, the expiration date will be extended the number of months remaining on the current driver's license.

## Will they get a new Real ID with an expiration that's four years out and get a partial refund for their old license that was only used for part of the four years?

There are no refunds when obtaining a REAL ID prior to the expiration date of a driver's license or identification card. Obtaining a REAL ID is optional and not required.

The REAL ID obtained prior to the expiration date of an individual's current driver's license or identification card will be extended by the number of months left on the current driver's license or identification card. The fee associated with early renewal is based on the number of months is left on the individual's current driver's license or identification card

## Minnesotans can continue to use their current driver's license as a form of identification to board domestic flights until Jan. 22, 2018, yet Minnesota may not begin issuing REAL IDs until October 1, 2018. What does that mean?

Minnesota will seek an extension from the Department of Homeland Security to allow Minnesotans to board domestic airlines with a non-compliant driver's license or identification card.

## What is the October 1, 2020 date everyone is talking about?

By October 1, 2020 every domestic airline traveler must have a REAL ID compliant driver's license, identification card or alternate form of identification. See the TSA website for more information.