



***REAL ID* FAQs**

What is *REAL ID*?

In 2005, Congress enacted the *REAL ID Act* requiring states to establish minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and IDs. The Act prohibited federal agencies from accepting any license or identification card from states that do not meet these standards.

Is Alaska complying with the *REAL ID Act*?

No. In 2008, the Alaska Legislature passed a bill barring the State of Alaska from spending any state funds to comply with the *REAL ID Act*.

Is there any way for Alaska to comply with the law?

Yes. Governor Walker has introduced two bills [HB 74](#) and [SB 34](#) to allow the Alaska DMV to comply with the Act. **The bills will give Alaskans a choice between getting a *REAL ID* or keeping their current license or ID.**

What if I don't want to get a *REAL ID*?

You won't have to—the Governor's bill gives you a choice. However, you will face restrictions for entering military bases and being able to pass through airport security unless you get a *REAL ID*.

How much will it cost for Alaska to offer a *REAL ID*?

It will cost \$1.5 million to enact the law. However, any Alaskan who wants a *Real ID* will be charged \$5 extra to help cover the costs.

What if we don't pass the bill to comply with *REAL ID*?

1. June 6, 2017, all Alaskans will need alternate ID to enter a military base.
2. January 22, 2018, all Alaskans will need alternate ID to pass through airport security to fly.
3. October 1, 2020, all Alaskans will need a *REAL ID* card to pass through airport security to fly.

What is an Alternate ID?

The most common form is a passport, but the Department of Homeland security has provided a list on their website of other options for an alternate ID:

<https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs>

Does REAL ID create a national database?

No. Neither does the Governor's legislation. The Alaska DMV will use existing databases to verify birth certificates, passport validity, and/or lawful status.

Will our DMV database be shared with other states or the federal government?

The Alaska DMV would use an encrypted, secure bridge to verify information with other states on certain, specific data points.

How can the DMV protect my information?

The DMV information is stored in Alaska and it is encrypted and strictly controlled and monitored.

Does the REAL ID have a Radio Frequency Chip or other tracking devices?

No.

What's the difference between getting a REAL ID and a passport?

- For many Alaskans, getting a passport is a hardship—many communities do not have passport facilities.
- Not all Alaskans will qualify for a passport—the requirements are more stringent than a *REAL ID*.
- *REAL ID* will cost \$25 per card; passports cost \$135; passport cards are \$55
- *REAL ID* cards take two weeks to process; passports and passport cards take 6-8 weeks.
- *REAL ID* cards do not contain Radio Frequency Identification tracking chips; passports do.
- *REAL ID* data will be stored in Alaska; passport data is stored by the U.S. State Department.

Will the Federal Government repeal *REAL ID*?

We have no indication they will. The Department of Homeland Security has told us repeatedly they plan to move forward with the implementation of *REAL ID*.

Is the Federal Government already enforcing *Real ID*?

Yes. There are 5 states that have not passed bills to enact REAL ID. Already residents of those states cannot get on to military bases without an alternate ID. Starting in January 2018, they will not be able to pass through airport security without an alternate ID.

What if I have more questions?

Contact Leslie Ridle; Department of Administration; Leslie.ridle@alaska.gov or go to the Homeland Security website: <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs>.