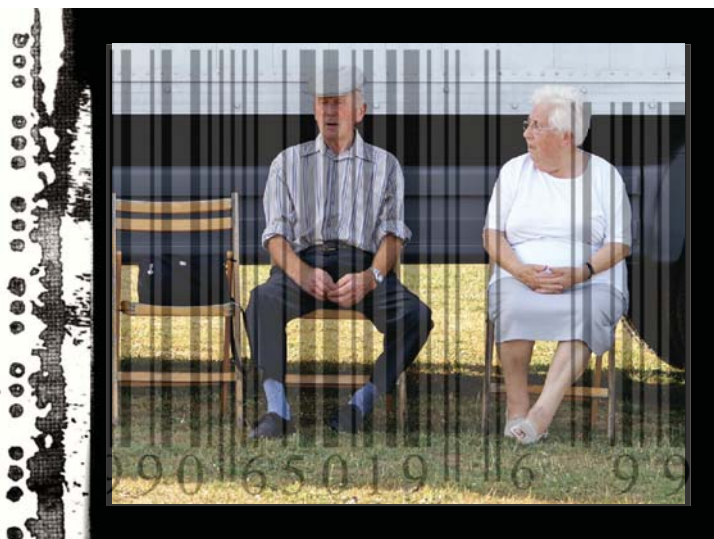


# REAL ID ACT



## What Is REAL ID?

The REAL ID Act was passed by Congress in May 2005 without a single hearing in the Senate. If it is accepted and carried out by the states, REAL ID will turn state driver's licenses into national identity cards and impose numerous burdens on taxpayers and state governments.

REAL ID mandates that state driver's licenses and state ID cards meet certain requirements, or else not be accepted for "federal purposes" such as boarding aircraft, entering federal facilities, and opening a bank account. States are being strong-armed to:

- Require individuals to present identity documents, such as birth certificates or other proof of citizenship, to obtain a driver's license.
- Verify the "issuance, validity, and completeness" of every document a person presents to the Department of Licensing (DOL) during the REAL ID card application process.

- Submit all information to a national database, making each person's information available to personnel in all states as well as to the federal government.
- Require a "machine readable zone" in driver's licenses that will allow retailers or identity thieves easily to capture personal data.

## REAL ID Will Create a Bureaucratic Nightmare

REAL ID changes the very nature and mission of Washington's DOL, from an agency responsible primarily for ensuring the safe operation of vehicles on state roadways into a wide-ranging enforcement agent of the federal government. For many Washingtonians, REAL ID will make the process of getting an identification card or driver's license a REAL nightmare.

- Washingtonians will face higher fees, longer customer-service lines, and will no longer be able to obtain same-day licenses.
- Washington state's government will be required to remake its driver's licenses, restructure many supporting computer databases and other systems, create an extensive new document-storage system, and verify the validity of every document presented to the DOL.

*(Continued on back)*



## REAL ID Exposes Us to Identity Theft and Invasion of Privacy

REAL ID increases the risk that Washington citizens will suffer identity theft or have their privacy compromised.

- REAL ID requirements may undercut the strong privacy protections guaranteed by Washington's Constitution by allowing the government access to personal information beyond what is needed to regulate drivers.
- The creation of a single national database, and the requirement that DOL store copies of all birth certificates and other identity documents, creates new "one-stop shops" for identity thieves. The data sharing between states and with federal agencies increases the number of people who have access to personal documents, making our information more vulnerable to fraud.
- The REAL ID Act nullifies the protections of Washington's confidentiality law, which currently shields the addresses of judges, police officers, and victims of domestic violence or stalking.

## REAL ID Hits Elderly the Hardest

Possession of a birth certificate or other proof of citizenship will become essential for Washingtonians to satisfy REAL ID's strict new identification

requirements. The elderly are particularly likely to lack the documents required by REAL ID.

- 11.3 percent of Washingtonians are 65 years old and over. The elderly are more likely to have lost birth records due to disasters and accidental loss, or never to have possessed hard copies.

## REAL ID Is an Unfunded Mandate

This Act is an unfunded federal mandate that creates enormous administrative burdens and costs for Washington state.

- Implementing REAL ID is estimated to cost Washington at least \$50 million a year, for the first five years of implementation.

## Opposition to REAL ID

REAL ID is generating widespread resistance across the country. The National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislators, and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators have all called for REAL ID Act reform.

We call on Washington policy makers to reject the implementation of the REAL ID Act in Washington. Congress must significantly modify the Act to address privacy, bureaucratic, and fiscal concerns.

**Oppose REAL ID in Washington!**

