



**National Conference of State Legislatures
Office of State-Federal Relations**

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DHS Releases Final Implementation Schedule for REAL ID

On Jan. 8, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [released](#) an updated timeline for the implementation of the final phase of REAL ID, which pertains to enforcement by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) at airports regarding domestic air travel.

Beginning Jan. 22, 2018, passengers with a driver's license issued by a state that is still not compliant with the REAL ID Act (and has not been granted an extension) will need to show an alternative form of acceptable identification for domestic air travel in order to board their flight. Passengers with driver's licenses issued by a state that is compliant with REAL ID (or a state that has been issued an extension) will be able to use their driver's licenses or identification cards. Starting on Oct. 1, 2020, every air traveler will need a REAL ID-compliant license, or another acceptable form of identification, for domestic air travel.

Currently, DHS has determined that 22 states and the District of Columbia are fully compliant with the REAL ID Act leaving most of the remaining states and territories operating under an extension through Oct. 10, 2016. Several states are noncompliant. DHS is continuing to provide extensions, as warranted, which are granted for a maximum of one year and may be renewed if a state demonstrates continued progress towards compliance. To check whether your state is compliant or has an extension, click [here](#).

It is important to note that individuals do not need to adjust any immediate travel plans as the earliest that a resident from a non-compliant state would be impacted is Jan. 22, 2018. Furthermore, passengers can continue to use any of the various other forms of identification accepted by TSA (such as a Passport or Passport Card, Global Entry card, U.S. military ID, airline or airport-issued ID, federally recognized tribal-issued photo ID). See [TSA's website](#) for a list of all other acceptable forms of identification. DHS will be conducting outreach to educate the traveling public about the timeline, and continuing engagement with states regarding REAL ID standards.

For any additional questions or concerns please contact NCSL staff [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) or [Melanie Condon](#) (202-624-3597).

Important documents

[DHS Press Release](#)