

REAL ID CREDENTIAL



STANDARD ID CREDENTIAL



# Tennessee's REAL ID:

## Why, Where, When, and How to Get It

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April 2020



Municipal Technical Advisory Service  
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

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## Background

The REAL ID Act of 2005 was enacted in response to a 9/11 Commission recommendation that the federal government “set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver’s licenses.”<sup>1</sup> The Act established minimum security standards for license issuance and production and assigned responsibility for determining whether a state is meeting these standards to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).



From: <https://www.tn.gov/tntrealid/what-is-real-id.html>

The Act prohibits federal agencies from accepting for official purposes driver’s licenses and identification cards from states not meeting the Act’s minimum standards. The official purposes defined in the Act and regulations are as follows:

- Accessing federal facilities;
- Entering nuclear power plants; and
- Boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft.

In early 2013, the National Security Council Staff convened an Interagency Policy Committee to develop a plan to ensure that enforcement of the Act’s prohibitions is done fairly and responsibly. This plan, announced on December 20, 2013, defined the initial enforcement phases and established a schedule for their implementation. The Act doesn’t just cover Tennessee; it covers the 50 US states, the District of Columbia, and the US territories of Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

## Is This a New Law?

No, as the name of the Act suggests, the Act was established in 2005. DHS issued the REAL ID regulation on January 29, 2008 and began issuing compliance determinations on December 20, 2012. On December 20, 2013, DHS announced a phased enforcement plan to implement the statutory prohibition on the ability of federal agencies to accept driver’s licenses and identification cards issued by noncompliant states by federal agencies for official purposes. The deployment of enforcement measures is cumulative, with measures in each phase remaining in effect through successive phases.

<sup>1</sup> National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States. “The 9/11 Commission Report.” January 1, 2004. Available online: <http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report.pdf>

## Implementation Schedule

**Phase 1** of enforcement began on April 21, 2014, at DHS’s Nebraska Avenue Complex headquarters in Washington, DC.

**Phase 2** began on July 21, 2014. This phase applies to restricted federal facilities (or parts of a facility), which are only accessible to federal employees, contractors, and their guests. It applies to about 217 facilities in the custody and control of the General Services Administration (GSA)—mostly law enforcement agencies and laboratories—as well as many agency headquarters facilities.

**Phase 3** applies to “semi-restricted” federal facilities (or parts of a facility), which are accessible to the public but subject to ID-based access control. The start date for each facility is based on its Facility Security Level (FSL) classification. Some facilities began on January 19, 2015 (Phase 3A), and some facilities began on October 10, 2015 (Phase 3B).

**Phase 4A** enforcement for boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft, based on the compliance status of the state/territory, began on January 22, 2018.

**Phase 4B** enforcement for all official purposes, based on the compliance status of the card, begins on October 1, 2020. In response to COVID-19, the Phase 4B deadline has been postponed until October 1, 2021.

**On March 26, 2020, President Donald Trump issued an order to delay the implementation of REAL ID until October 1, 2021.<sup>2</sup>**

## What Does This Mean for Tennessee Residents?

The Act only affects access control policies where individuals are required to present an identification document for official purposes. The Act does not require agencies to accept, or individuals to present, identification where it is not required for access. Nor does it prohibit an agency from accepting other forms of identification such as a US passport or military ID card.

The Act’s prohibitions do not affect the use of state-issued driver’s licenses or identification cards, including licensees, for purposes unrelated to official purposes as defined in the Act and its applicable regulations. Some examples, the Act’s prohibitions do not apply to voting,

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<sup>2</sup> Security, U. S. (2020, March 26). *Acting Secretary Chad Wolf Statement on the REAL ID Enforcement Deadline*. Retrieved from <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/03/26/acting-secretary-chad-wolf-statement-real-id-enforcement-deadline>

registering to vote, issuing Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) cards, or applying for or receiving federal benefits.

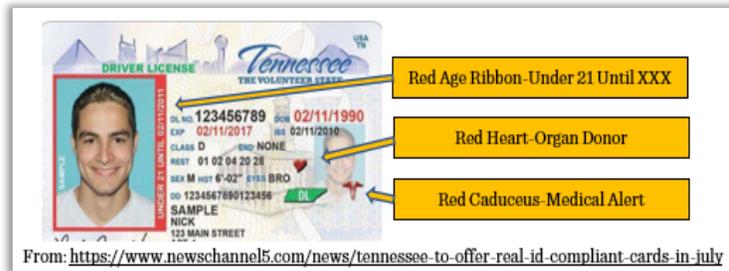
Tennesseans have options. Tennesseans are not required to obtain a REAL ID compliant license. The decision to get a REAL ID is completely up to you. A REAL ID driver license or identification is not required for any other reason than to allow you to continue to fly domestically within the United States and access certain federal facilities after October 1, 2021. Beginning October 1, 2021, you must have a REAL ID compliant credential, passport, or other TSA approved alternative form of identification to board commercial flights within the United States, access federal buildings, or enter nuclear power plants.

Activity	REAL ID Driver License or ID	Standard Driver License or ID
Driving (DL Only)	Yes	Yes
General Identification Purposes	Yes	Yes
Boarding Domestic Flight after October 1, 2021	Yes	No
Enter Federal Facility (that require ID) or Military Base	Yes	No

*Activities and Type Credential Required*

## Tennessee's REAL ID

Tennessee's REAL ID is distinctive from the basic Tennessee Driver License. The REAL ID compliant driver license and identification credential both have a gold circle with a star in the upper right corner of the license card to indicate that it is REAL ID compliant. There are other symbols on the Tennessee driver license that are useful and easily identifiable. At a glance, a first responder can look at the driver license and visually determine if the person is over/under 21-years old, that the person is or is not an organ donor, and if the person has a medical alert condition they have reported.



## Tennessee's REAL ID Cost

A Tennessee REAL ID cost the same as current Tennessee licenses and IDs. If it is time to renew your license, the cost to obtain a REAL ID driver license or identification credential will be the standard renewal fee of an 8-year credential. However, if you are not within your renewal period and you wish to obtain a REAL ID compliant credential, you will be charged a duplicate fee.

License Class (standard 8-year cycle)	License Fees*	Minimum Age	Temporary(X) Driver License & Identification(ID) License Type	Temporary License Fees*
Class D-Operator	\$28.00	16	XD-Class D Vehicle	\$28.00
Class D w/For Hire	\$30.50	18	XD w/For Hire	\$30.50
Adding For Hire	\$4.50	18	Adding For Hire	\$4.50
PD Learner Permit (over age 18)	\$5.50 (1yr)	18	XPD-Class D Permit (over age 18)	\$28.00
PD Learner Permit (under age 18)	\$10.50 (1yr)	15	XPD-Class D Permit (under age 18)	\$33.00
H-Hardship	\$9.00	14	XH-Hardship	\$33.00
Photo ID (over age 18)	\$12.00	Over 18	XID-Photo ID Only (over age 18)	\$12.00
Photo ID (under age 18)	\$4.50	Under 18	XID-Photo ID Only (under age 18)	\$4.50
Class M-Motorcycle	\$29.00	15	XM-Class M Vehicle	\$29.00
DM-Operator & Motorcycle	\$55.00	16	XDM-Class D & M Vehicle	\$55.00
Class A	\$64.00	21	NA	NA
Class B or C	\$56.00	21	NA	NA
1st Duplicate-D or M	\$8.00	-	1st Duplicate XD or XM	\$28.00
2nd or Subsequent Duplicate-D or M	\$12.00	-	2nd or Subsequent Duplicate XD or XM	\$28.00
1st Duplicate-CDL	\$12.00	-	NA	NA
2nd or Subsequent Duplicate-CDL	\$16.00	-	NA	NA
Intermediate Restricted-D	\$23.25	16	Intermediate Restricted-XD	\$33.00
Intermediate Unrestricted-D	\$2.00	17	Intermediate Unrestricted-XD	\$28.00
Graduating to Class D	\$8 - \$12.00	18	Graduating to Class XD	\$28.00

*Tennessee REAL ID License & ID Cost Table*

## Getting the REAL ID

Federal law requires that your first application for a REAL ID compliant credential be made in person. If you already have a Tennessee driver license or ID, you can visit any of the State's 44 full-service Driver Service Centers (<https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/safety/driver-services/locations/dllocationcnty.html>), Nashville Downtown Express Center (William R. Snodgrass Building), or a participating County Clerk's Office (Bradley, Campbell, Cheatham, Chester, Claiborne, Clay, Cocke, Giles, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock,

Hawkins, Henderson, Henry, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Lake, Lewis, Lawrence, Monroe, Morgan, Perry, Roane, Sequatchie, Shelby, Sullivan, Unicoi, Union, Washington, Wayne, and Wilson). If you have not been issued a Tennessee driver license, you must visit one of the 44 full-service Driver Service Centers.

Prepare a checklist of required documents for your in-person visit; check off and organize the documents as you obtain them to complete the REAL ID process. Documents needed:

- Proof of US citizenship or legal presence: *one (1) of the following documents*
    - US birth certificate from State Office of Vital Statistics or equivalent with raised seal
    - Valid, unexpired US passport or passport card
    - US certificate or consular report of birth abroad (FS-240, DS-1350 or FS-545)
    - Unexpired Employment Authorization Document issued by DHS (I-766 or 688B)
    - Unexpired foreign passport with valid US visa and approved I-94 form
    - Certificate of Naturalization issued by DHS (N-550, N-570, or N-578)
    - Certificate of Citizenship issued by DHS (N-560 or N-561)
  - Proof of your full Social Security Number: *one (1) of the following documents*
    - Form W-2 within last 12-months
    - Form 1099 within the last 12-months
    - Social Security Card
    - Payroll check stub
  - Proof of Tennessee residency: *two (2) of the following documents*
    - Home utility bill within the last 4-months. Online bills must have URL address displayed. Wireless telephone plans cannot be accepted.
    - Current Tennessee vehicle registration or title (use one not both)
    - Current Tennessee Voter Registration card
    - IRS tax return within the past 12-months
    - Bank statement within past 4-months
    - Current rental/mortgage contract or receipt, including deed of sale for property; handwritten rental contracts or agreements must be notarized.
    - Current homeowner or renter insurance policy
    - Current automobile, life, or health insurance policy
    - Receipt for personal property or real estate taxes paid within the previous year
    - Installment loans, such as automobile, student loan, bank loans
    - Current employer verification of resident address or letter from employer as long as it is on company letterhead, then signature of employer must be notarized
    - Current Driver License or ID or Handgun Carry Permit issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety to a parent, legal guardian or spouse of the applicant
    - Applicant's Driver License, ID, or Handgun Permit issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety
- \* You must provide certified legal documents supporting any name changes that have occurred.
- \*\* All documents must be originals or certified documents. No photocopies are accepted.

## Commercial Driver License Requirements

If you have a Commercial Driver License, you will need to present the following documents when applying for a REAL ID:

- Proof of US citizenship or legal presence: *one (1) of the following documents*
  - US birth certificate from State Office of Vital Statistics or equivalent with raised seal
  - Valid, unexpired US passport or passport card
  - US certificate or consular report of birth abroad (FS-240, DS-1350 or FS-545)
  - Unexpired Employment Authorization Document issued by DHS (I-766 or 688B)
  - Unexpired foreign passport with valid US visa and approved I-94 form
  - Certificate of Naturalization issued by DHS (N-550, N-570, or N-578)
  - Certificate of Citizenship issued by DHS (N-560 or N-561)
  - Valid, unexpired Permanent Resident Card Issued by DHS or INS (I-551)
- Proof of your full Social Security Number: *one (1) of the following documents*
  - Form W-2 within last 12-months
  - 1099 within the last 12-months
  - Social Security Card
  - Payroll check stub
- Proof of Tennessee residency: *two (2) of the following documents*
  - Home utility bill within the last 4-months. Online bills must have URL address displayed. Wireless telephone plans cannot be accepted.
  - Current Tennessee vehicle registration or title (use one not both)
  - Current Tennessee Voter Registration card
  - Current mortgage papers, including deed or mortgage payment coupon or book
  - Current lease or rental contract with notarized signatures or accompanied by signed realty agency letterhead confirming lease validity
  - Military LES papers listing Tennessee as home of record (this is the ONLY document that won't have the address)
- All CDL License holders are required to have a valid DOT Medical on file with our department or in their possession at the time of visiting one of our Driver Services Centers for a service.

\* You must provide certified legal documents supporting any name changes that have occurred.

\*\* These documents will be required even if you are already a Tennessee license holder and are applying for a REAL ID for the first time or if you are a new Tennessee resident and were previously issued a REAL ID in a different state.

\*\*\* All documents must be originals or certified. No photocopies will be accepted.

## State of Tennessee Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why is a REAL ID compliant driver license beneficial for me?**

It is your choice to get a REAL ID license. If you fly domestically and simply want the convenience of carrying your driver license or ID credential to board your flights or if you do not have another Transportation Security Administration (TSA) approved alternative form of identification, you may want to obtain a REAL ID so your travel plans are not affected.

### **Where do I go to have a REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential issued?**

Federal law requires that your first application for a REAL ID compliant credential be made in person. A REAL ID credential can be obtained at any of the 44 Driver Services Centers or, if you have already been issued a Tennessee driver license or ID, a participating County Clerk Office.

### **Do I need an appointment to get a REAL ID?**

No appointments will be accepted for this type of transaction. You may visit a Driver Services Center during business hours (8:30 am – 5:00 pm).

### **Will I receive my REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential the same day I apply?**

No. You will be issued a paper interim REAL ID compliant credential. If you need a REAL ID compliant credential for an upcoming trip, please allow enough time before your trip to receive your hard copy in the mail. A paper credential may not be accepted by TSA. Please contact TSA to inquire if a paper copy is accepted. The hard copy will arrive in 10-20 days at the mailing address you provided.

### **What if I don't want a REAL ID credential?**

The decision to get a REAL ID credential is completely up to you. It is not required for any other reason than to allow you to continue to fly domestically and access certain federal facilities after October 1, 2021. For example, you may decide to not get a REAL ID if you already have a passport or another TSA approved alternative form of identification. Until October 1, 2021, our currently issued Tennessee driver license and/or ID credential is acceptable.

### **When do I need a REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential to fly domestically?**

Beginning October 1, 2021, you must have a REAL ID compliant credential, or a TSA approved alternative form of identification to fly within the U.S.

**Will minors be required to have a REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential to fly domestically?**

Minors are eligible to obtain a REAL ID compliant driver license or an ID credential. Minors that have a current driver license or ID credential have the same choice as existing license holders and can obtain a REAL ID compliant credential by following the same process as adult drivers.

**Does obtaining a REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential cost more?**

No. The REAL ID compliant credential does not have an additional cost. However, if you wish to obtain one before your renewal, you will need to pay a duplicate fee. See the cost schedule as part of this report.

**What does a REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential look like?**

A REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential will appear very similar to your existing driver license or ID credential. The distinguishing difference is a gold circle with a star in the right corner.



**What if I choose not to obtain a REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential?**

You will be issued a Standard driver license or ID credential. It will have the phrase “Not for Federal Identification” printed on the front of the credential. The general use of a Standard or REAL ID driver license or ID credential will not change. The only difference is that a REAL ID driver license or ID credential will allow you to board commercial domestic flights or enter certain federal facilities.

**What does “Not for Federal Identification” mean?**

“Not for Federal Identification” means that a credential is not REAL ID compliant and you will not be able to use the credential to board a commercial domestic aircraft, enter a federal facility or visit a nuclear facility after October 1, 2021.

**Can I transfer my REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential from another state for a Tennessee REAL ID?**

Any REAL ID compliant credential issued from another state can be transferred, however all documentation requirements must be met to be issued a Tennessee REAL ID credential.

**Is there a federal database of people with REAL ID credentials?**

No. The federal government does not have a federal database storing REAL ID information. Tennessee securely stores your REAL ID information with your driving record information.

**Does the REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential have an electronic chip in them that allows my movements to be tracked?**

There is no electronic chip or other electronic device in a Tennessee driver license or ID credential.

**Will I be able to renew my driver license by an alternative method (Online, Self-Service Kiosk, County Clerk Office or Mail) and still receive a REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential?**

When REAL ID compliant licenses and ID credentials are available, your first or initial application for a REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential must be done in person at a Driver Services Center or participating County Clerk Offices across Tennessee. After receiving your REAL ID compliant credential, you may be able to use the online renewal service, Self-Service Kiosks, visit a County Clerk Office or the mail-in option to renew or be issued a duplicate of your REAL ID compliant credential.

**Are there any new knowledge and driving test requirements to apply for a REAL ID compliant driver license credential?**

No. There are no knowledge or skills testing requirements to apply for a REAL ID compliant driver license credential if you currently have a valid driver license.

**How do I decide whether I need to obtain a REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential?**

A REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential is not mandatory, and some people may find they do not need one. If they have a valid passport or if they do not plan to fly commercially, enter a federal facility or visit a nuclear facility, a REAL ID may not be necessary.

Some questions to consider when deciding:

- Do you fly on domestic commercial aircraft?
- Do you need to access a federal facility or nuclear facility?

If the answer is yes to either or both, you should consider obtaining a REAL ID compliant credential.

**What happens to travelers who show up without a compliant license after October 1, 2021? Will TSA turn them away?**

Beginning October 1, 2021, travelers will need to present a REAL ID compliant driver license or ID credential or another acceptable form of identification, such as a passport, in order to board commercial aircraft. If the traveler cannot provide an acceptable form of identification, they will not be permitted through the security checkpoint.

## References

Security, U. S. (2020, March 26). *Acting Secretary Chad Wolf Statement on the REAL ID Enforcement Deadline*. Retrieved from <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/03/26/acting-secretary-chad-wolf-statement-real-id-enforcement-deadline>

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