

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

S.F. No. 4450

(SENATE AUTHORS: DIBBLE)

DATE
03/26/2020

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Introduction and first reading
Referred to Transportation Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A resolution

1.2 requesting that Congress and the United States Secretary of Homeland Security extend

1.3 the date for the full implementation of the REAL ID Act and make related changes to

1.4 federal law.

1.5 WHEREAS, Minnesota is facing unprecedented challenges due to the infectious disease

1.6 known as COVID-19 and its catastrophic effects on our economy; and

1.7 WHEREAS, Minnesota has complied with the federal requirements of the REAL ID Act and

1.8 is issuing compliant drivers' licenses and identification cards; and

1.9 WHEREAS, Minnesota does not allow a person to obtain a driver's license or state

1.10 identification card online and the in-person offices that issue drivers' licenses and state identification

1.11 cards are rapidly closing due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

1.12 WHEREAS, many Minnesota residents will likely not be able to comply with federal REAL

1.13 ID requirements because of office closures and the various constraints imposed by the public health

1.14 response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

1.15 WHEREAS, even under the best scenarios, Minnesota was forecasting significant delays in

1.16 wait times at service counters and the amount of time it subsequently takes to receive the card; and

1.17 WHEREAS, the current pandemic makes the required in-person application and issuance

1.18 procedures a potential violation of current public health guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease

1.19 Control and Prevention; and

1.20 WHEREAS, a delay in the implementation date of REAL ID requirements will help alleviate

1.21 complication and confusion and will allow time for important administrative and statutory changes;

1.22 NOW, THEREFORE,

2.1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it requests Congress
2.2 and the United States Secretary of Homeland Security to extend the deadline for full implementation
2.3 of the REAL ID Act by least one calendar year.

2.4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Minnesota advises Congress
2.5 and the United States Secretary of Homeland Security make the following regulatory and statutory
2.6 changes in order to modernize the law and expedite Minnesota's issuance of REAL ID compliant
2.7 drivers' licenses and identification cards:

2.8 (1) update the list of acceptable REAL ID identity verification documents for application
2.9 presentation, including documents currently accepted by the Transportation Security Administration
2.10 for satisfying airport security protocol;

2.11 (2) launch a nationwide public awareness campaign to give the public information they need
2.12 to avoid excessive delays in obtaining a REAL ID compliant driver's license or identification card;

2.13 (3) create a means of granting exceptions from the REAL ID requirements for older applicants
2.14 and already-vetted populations;

2.15 (4) allow for REAL ID reciprocity between states;

2.16 (5) grant much-needed funding to states to support increased staffing, training, and public
2.17 education efforts;

2.18 (6) allow flexibility for the states to respond to technological innovations, including but not
2.19 limited to allowing the acceptance of electronic verification of documents through federal and state
2.20 systems rather than requiring in-person presentation of paper documents; and

2.21 (7) permit the states to use information from currently existing federal trusted traveler programs
2.22 with satisfactory identity verifications, such as TSA PreCheck and Global Entry.

2.23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed
2.24 to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the
2.25 President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United
2.26 States House of Representatives, Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress, and the
2.27 United States Secretary of Homeland Security.