

SENATE BILL 5

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,  
Chapter 50, relative to the issuance of driver  
licenses and photo identification to noncitizens.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) The department of safety shall redesign driver licenses, instruction permits, intermediate driver licenses, and photo identification licenses issued to lawful permanent residents of the United States pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-50-303(a)(9), and the temporary licenses and permits described in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-50-331(g), so that they may be easily distinguished from driver licenses, instruction permits, intermediate driver licenses, and photo identification licenses issued to residents of this state who are United States citizens. The driver licenses, instruction permits, intermediate driver licenses, photo identification licenses, and temporary licenses and permits must be printed on a visually distinctive colored background.

(b) The department of safety shall begin issuing the redesigned licenses and permits to qualified applicants no later than January 1, 2026.

(c) The person issued or for whom was renewed a license or permit pursuant to subsection (a) is entitled to the same driving privileges and, if applicable, is subject to the same restrictions authorized by the previously issued license or permit. The redesigned license or permit must also be accepted as proof of identity in the same manner as the previously issued license or permit.

(d) A person issued or for whom was renewed a license or permit pursuant to subsection (a) who, upon renewal of the license or permit, submits documentation that the applicant is a citizen of the United States pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-50-321(c)(1)(C)(i), shall be issued a license or permit that is the same design as the license or permit issued to residents of this state who are United States citizens.

SECTION 2. For purposes of redesigning licenses and permits, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect January 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it.