

HCS HB 151 -- REAL ID COMPLIANT LICENSES

SPONSOR: Corlew

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Government Efficiency by a vote of 6 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 1.

This bill requires the Department of Revenue to amend its procedures for applying for a driver's license or identification card in order to comply with the federal REAL ID Act. The department is currently prevented from complying with the act. This bill requires that the department give applicants the option of either a compliant license or a license that is not in compliance with the federal REAL ID Act. The department will be required to inform applicants of the differences between the compliant and non-compliant forms of license, specifically that the REAL ID compliant driver's license can be used for federal purposes such as commercial domestic air travel and gaining access to military bases and most federal government facilities, while the non-compliant license cannot. The bill specifies that any biometric data collected for these purposes will be retained only for the purposes of complying with the REAL ID Act.

The bill prohibits the department from implanting a radio frequency identification (RFID) chip or tag in a driver's license or identification card.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 2235 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that persons in Missouri have been denied access to military bases to visit family members, watch military graduations, etc. Businesses in Missouri that service the bases are being negatively affected. We should allow those citizens of Missouri that want to get a REAL ID compliant driver's license the ability to do so, while providing an alternative for those citizens that do not want a compliant license. Major airlines will boycott Missouri if we do not enact this bill, and it could harm the state when it comes to future base closures. Others say it is too costly to get full passports for a family to travel.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Corlew; Kent Thomas, Sustainable Ozark Partnership; Justin Meyer, Kansas City Aviation Department; Rep. Charlie Davis; Tom Crawford, Missouri Trucking Association; Rhonda Hamm-Niebruegge, St. Louis Lambert International Airport; John Whitehead; Burns and McDonnell

Engineering; Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce; Dea Hoover, Are We There Yet?, Discover St. Louis; Associated General Contractors of Missouri; Warren Trivett; Scott Davis; Michael Brogge; and Donald C. Mottison, Airlines For America.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that enacting this bill is giving up liberty for convenience. The legislature had more backbone in 2009. The federal government cannot adequately protect citizens' private information from hacking.

Testifying against the bill were Concerned Women For America of Missouri and the American Civil Liberties Union Missouri.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that if this bill is enacted, the Department of Revenue would immediately request the extension the federal government has said it would give to the state.

Testifying on the bill were Joseph Plaggenberg and the Missouri Department of Revenue.