

HB 1716 -- FEDERAL REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPONSOR: Guest

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill prohibits the violation of a person's privacy rights in order to obtain or renew a driver's license.

The Department of Revenue is prohibited from:

- (1) Amending any procedures for applying for a driver's license or identification card in order to comply with the standards of the federal Real ID Act of 2005;
- (2) Expanding motor vehicle records data it shares with other states, the federal government, or other agencies or providing data to any additional states or state or federal agency unless authorized by statute; or
- (3) Collecting, obtaining, or retaining any data in connection with activities related to compliance with the act.

Any biometric data previously collected, obtained, or retained in connection with motor vehicle registration or operation or the issuance or renewal of driver's licenses or identification cards by any state department or agency must be retrieved and deleted from all databases.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the Federal Real ID Act of 2005 represents overreaching government control in the lives of Americans. The federal government is taking freedoms and civil liberties from Missourians. The act was passed as an amendment late at night on an unrelated bill for supplemental funding for the Iraq War and tsunami relief. The bill never had a hearing in the U.S. Senate. Because the act requires personal data to be shared within the state, between states, and globally, the risk of identification theft increases drastically. First amendment freedoms are also being eroded due to the lack of exemptions for religious exceptions for taking photographs or fingerprints of citizens.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Guest; and Louise Diender.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the implications of not implementing the Federal Real ID Act of 2005 include Missouri citizens not having access to federal courthouses or buildings and not having adequate identification to board airlines. The act is not a federal mandate. If Missouri chooses to not implement the act, many Missouri citizens will lose privileges.

Testifying on the bill was Department of Revenue.