

HCS HB 2235 -- REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPONSOR: Corlew

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 9 to 2. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill amends procedures the Department of Revenue must follow when issuing driver's licenses or identification cards. This bill requires the department to inform applicants of the option of being issued a REAL ID compliant driver's license or identification card or a noncompliant driver's license or identification card. The bill outlines specific information that the department must provide to applicants regarding the two types of licenses.

The department must issue a noncompliant driver's license or identification card to applicants who object to being issued a REAL ID compliant version.

A driver's license or identification card that is not REAL ID compliant will not be valid for official federal purposes.

This bill is similar to SB 902 (2016).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill lets Missouri residents choose between the current state driver's license and a REAL ID compliant driver's license. The REAL ID compliant driver's license would allow individuals to access military bases and other federal facilities. The REAL ID complaint driver's license could also be a valid form of identification for domestic air travel.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Corlew; Centurylink; and the Missouri Trucking Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that our current driver's license system should remain intact.

Testifying against the bill was Carl Bearden and the Missouri Family Network.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say other states are providing their residents with a similar option. It is important to remember that there are federal deadlines for instituting REAL ID compliant licenses and it will likely take the department an additional 18 months to make any new licenses available to the public once new legislation is adopted.

Testifying on the bill was Casey Wasser, Missouri Department Of Revenue.