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American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

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DHS Requests Information for REAL ID Mobile Driver's License Rulemaking

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has issued a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) to inform an upcoming rulemaking addressing security standards and requirements for the issuance of mobile or digital driver's licenses to enable federal agencies to accept these credentials for "official purposes" as defined in the REAL ID Act.

The [REAL ID Modernization Act](#) included language that amended the definition of driver's licenses and identification cards in the REAL ID Act ([P.L. 109-13](#)) to include driver's licenses or identification cards "stored or accessed via electronic means, such as mobile or digital driver's licenses which have been issued in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary."

For this new RFI, DHS seeks input concerning technical approaches, applicable industry standards, and best practices to ensure that mDLs can be issued, verified, and authenticated with features to ensure security, privacy, and identity fraud detection. DHS also is interested in any data that can be provided on the cost of requirements necessary to permit federal acceptance of mDLs and the benefits of such requirements, as well as the benefits of permitting use of mDLs (e.g., quantifiable cost-savings from being able to use a REAL ID-compliant mDL rather than a REAL ID-compliant physical driver's license or identification cards (DL/ID)).

Submitted comments will enable DHS to consider potential regulatory amendments that realize the benefits of mDLs in a competitively neutral, technology-agnostic manner, complementary to the rapid technological innovations occurring in this space, including security standards for states to incorporate into their issuance and production processes to enable federal agencies to accept mDLs as REAL ID compliant identification for official purposes. Specific questions for comment begin on page 20325 of the RFI.

Page 20322 of the RFI references [AAMVA's Mobile Driver's License Implementation Guidelines](#) in recommending an extension of the draft ISO/IEC 18013-5 standard for communication protocols, data structures, methods for identity verification, data integrity, and protection mechanisms for authentication and interoperability with a wide range of mobile devices and readers. AAMVA recommends an extension of the draft standard that would adapt it for DMVs in the United States. AAMVA is currently in the process of updating these guidelines based on the soon to be published finalization of the 18014-5 standard.

Comments are due **June 18, 2021**. Jurisdictions interested in submitting

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comments are encouraged to submit a copy of their comments to governmentaffairs@aamva.org so that the association may reflect those comments in its own.



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