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American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

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National Governors Association Requests REAL ID Extension

The National Governors Association (NGA) has [submitted a letter](#) to the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting an extension of the REAL ID enforcement deadline for no less than one year. NGA cites state work in rapidly responding to and mitigating the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as a recent challenge associated with travel restrictions that will only complicate the screening environment and operational capacity of state DMVs in the coming months.

Along with the request, NGA also provided DHS with a series of recommendations that would expedite issuance of REAL ID compliant cards, ensure better messaging and education of American citizens, increase resourcing at the state, territorial, and federal level, and maintain security standards while implementing innovative technological solutions. NGA recommendations closely reflect those previously submitted by the AAMVA community, and include:

- DHS should immediately update its list of acceptable REAL ID identity verification documents for application presentation, including, documents currently accepted by TSA for satisfying airport security protocol.
- DHS should create a unified, national marketing plan to intensify public outreach that will educate more American citizens, avoid excessive delays, and minimize additional costs to states and territories.
- DHS should set up an exception process for older applicants and vetted populations.
- DHS should delay the recertification process until such a time that a state and territory is at least at a 75 percent issuance rate.
- Consider State-to-State REAL ID reciprocity, eliminating the need to repeat documentation and verification processes.
- Create easy-to-use, online, and print resource documents for applicants, such as a required document checklist.

Federal Statutory Changes:

- Provide funding for states through a REAL ID state grant program to support increased staffing, training, and public education efforts.
- Modernize the REAL ID Act to keep pace with new and innovative technological innovations.
- Appropriate dedicated funding to DHS for a national marketing campaign.
- Clarify within the Act the ability for states, territories, and DHS to recognize and accept electronic verification of documents through

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federal and state systems rather than requiring paper documents.

- Allow states and territories to utilize information from currently existing federal travel programs, such as TSA Pre-Check and Global Entry.



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