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DHS Uses Budget Hearing to Address Real ID Extensions and Enforcement

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary John Kelly [appeared](#) before the United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs to discuss the DHS Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request. Secretary Kelly used this platform to discuss the numerous priorities of the Department, including an increased emphasis on identification security and identity vetting.

The appearance was coupled with public outreach to reinforce the Department's current position on extending compliance deadlines associated with Real ID. DHS has updated their ["Federal Enforcement"](#) page to include language regarding state compliance extensions stating that:

"All REAL ID extensions are pending a decision by Secretary Kelly until further notice. For states with extensions that expire after June 6, 2017 that do not receive an extension Federal agencies will not begin enforcement until the grace period ends on July 10, 2017. During the grace period, Federal facilities are expected to continue accepting driver's licenses and identification cards issued by states with an expired limited extension."

Of particular note is that DHS has now added the new July 10, 2017 enforcement date. Expiring states/territories with a limited extension will be subject to Real ID enforcement as of July 10, 2017. The requirement does not impact the January 22, 2018 date by which all non-compliant states/territories will be subject to Real ID enforcement at TSA checkpoints.

During the hearing, Secretary Kelly indicated that he will make a decision next week about whether to offer extensions until October on a state-by-state basis. AAMVA will continue to monitor the issue as it progresses and keep its membership notified.



4401 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22203