

Good morning committee members. I am Marcus Brown, Director of the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today and update you on the status of REAL ID as it pertains to Pennsylvania.

On January 18, 2017, Governor Wolf received correspondence from The Department of Homeland Security notifying Governor Wolf that Pennsylvania has been granted a limited extension, through June 6, 2017, in order meet the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005 and implement the regulation.

DHS granted this extension based on a review of the information that we provided them on January 13, 2017, which indicated our plans to move forward on legislative solution.

During this extension, Federal agencies may accept state driver's licenses and identification cards issued by our state for official purposes - that is, military bases, nuclear power plants, and Federal facilities, in accordance with the phased enforcement schedule.

If we show progress toward meeting these requirements, we may be granted an additional extension for additional time to become fully compliant. Extensions are at the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security.

If we fail to take the steps to meet all the requirements of the REAL ID we can be denied any future extension requests, which would thereby make our state non-compliant.

The immediate impact of being non-compliant will directly affect the citizens of Pennsylvania. Anyone who needs to enter a federal building, military base or nuclear power plant that requires the REAL ID will have to show another form of ID that is approved by DHS.

Starting January 22, 2018, travelers who do not have a license from a compliant state or a state that has been granted an extension will be asked to provide alternate acceptable identification. If the traveler cannot provide an acceptable form of identification, they will not be permitted through the security checkpoint at all airports.

I have had many conversations with my counterparts in both REAL ID compliant states and non-compliant states. Many HLS advisors in other states agree that the original regulations and deadlines set by DHS made it difficult to come into compliance. As DHS has modified the requirements and allowed for extensions, most states feel as though compliance is now possible.