

REAL ID in Pennsylvania

In March 2019, REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and photo ID cards will be available to Pennsylvanians who want them.

What is REAL ID?

The REAL ID Act is a federal law that affects how states issue driver's licenses and photo ID cards if they're going to be used for certain purposes, such as boarding a domestic commercial flight or entering a secure federal building that requires ID at the door.

*Beginning **May 3, 2023**, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally-acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID.*

Do Pennsylvanians have to get a REAL ID?

No, getting a REAL ID is optional for Pennsylvania residents. It is not necessary to have a REAL ID to:

- Drive
- Vote
- Apply for or receive federal benefits for which you are entitled (Veterans' Affairs, Social Security Administration, etc.)
- Enter a federal facility that does not require an ID (i.e. a post office)
- Access a hospital or receive life-saving services
- Participate in law enforcement proceedings or investigations (serve on a federal jury, testify in federal court, etc.)

What's the difference between a REAL ID and a standard-issue ID?

The chart below shows the difference between a standard ID or driver's license, and a REAL ID:

	Standard Photo ID or Driver's License	REAL ID Photo ID or Driver's License
<i>Driving (DL only)</i>	✓	✓
<i>General Identification Purposes</i>	✓	✓
<i>Boarding a Domestic (U.S.) Flight after May 3, 2023</i>	✗	✓
<i>Entering a Federal Facility or Military Base (that requires ID) after May 3, 2023</i>	✗	✓