

From the Desk of
Senator
Alan Olsen

Oregon DMV needs to store copies of birth certificates, passports to comply with federal security law



Oregonians might need to visit DMV offices in the future to change a name on a driver's license or ID card, such as after a marriage or divorce. The new procedure would be one of many that DMV would need to implement to start complying with the federal Real ID Act of 2005. *(The Oregonian)*



By Yuxing Zheng | The Oregonian/OregonLive

Email the author

on November 20, 2013 at 11:39 AM, updated November 20, 2013 at 2:08 PM

SALEM -- Oregon would need to spend \$16.3 million over six years and store copies of birth certificates and passports to comply with a federal law intended to guarantee the security of state driver's licenses and identification cards, a panel of state lawmakers heard Wednesday.

Get the top news in your inbox every morning. Sign up for email updates here.

Sponsored Link

To comply with the Real ID Act of 2005, Oregon would need to start retaining copies of such documents at a cost of \$3.7 million in the 2015-17 budget and \$3.6 million in the 2017-19 budget, according to officials with **Driver and Motor Vehicle Services**.

every time they renew a driver's license, requiring people to visit a DMV to change their name after marriage or divorce and to make other changes.

If the state doesn't comply, Oregon driver's licenses and ID cards could be refused as identification needed to board airplanes or enter federal buildings, U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials told the Oregon Department of Transportation.

More than 3 million Oregonians have driver's licenses.

Homeland Security officials granted extensions to states that didn't comply with the law by January 2013 but said future extensions would be on a case-by-case basis.

None of the states that border Oregon is among the 20 states that comply. Oregon meets 28 of the standards required in the Real ID Act, Homeland Security officials ruled.

Overall, Oregon would need to spend \$4.8 million in the 2015-17 budget to implement and operate new procedures. Operating costs would total \$5.8 million in 2017-19 and \$5.7 million in 2019-21, DMV officials estimate.

The Oregon Legislature passed a law in 2009 that prevents state agencies from implementing Real ID changes unless federal money covers the cost. But the little federal money available for the law the same money available for higher-priority needs such as emergency response, DMV officials said.

"For security purposes, it'd be easier for the national government to do it than the state doing it alone," said Sen. **Lee Beyer**, D-Springfield, "but that's the federal law."

Sen. **Fred Girod**, R-Stayton, said he flies frequently and appreciates the program's intent of improving security.

"I think it's something we need for security," he said. "I want to know I'm safe when I fly."

Talk of Real ID implementation comes after DMV officials suspended the Jan. 1, 2014, implementation of driver cards, which would have granted four-year driving privileges to Oregonians who can't prove they're in the U.S. legally.

The Oregon Legislature passed a law in spring to allow the cards, but it was suspended after **opponents hoping to roll back the law gathered enough signatures** to refer the issue to the November 2014 ballot.

More

Continuing coverage of the efforts to give driver cards to Oregonians who can't prove their legal residency.

-- Yuxing Zheng