Minnesota Driver’s Licenses and ID Cards

REAL ID Legislation
The Minnesota Legislature overwhelmingly passes a REAL ID bill, enabling the state to comply with federal regulations. The law directs DPS-DVS to make REAL ID-compliant driver’s licenses and ID cards available by October 1, 2018.

REAL ID Legislation
The U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) informs DPS-DVS during a compliance check-in that the state is making the necessary progress to comply with federal REAL ID regulations. This means that Minnesotans will be able to use their current licenses and ID cards for federal purposes until October 1, 2020.

New Driver’s License /ID Design
DPS-DVS begins issuing newly designed driver’s licenses and ID cards for applications or renewals processed on or after August 6, 2018 as the state transitions from cards that were first issued in 2004.

Federal REAL ID Enforcement
Starting October 1, 2020, every air traveler will need a REAL ID-compliant license, or another acceptable form of identification, for domestic air travel.

DHS: REAL IDs not required until 2020
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REAL IDs Available in MN
Minnesotans will be able to apply for a REAL ID-compliant card October 2018, but they will have two years to obtain one if they choose. That means Minnesotans will be able to use their standard licenses and ID cards for federal purposes, including boarding domestic flights, until October 1, 2020.