

REAL ID requirements intrusive

Laurence May

October 6, 2016

Mr. (Andrew) Meehan is bemoaning Gov. Matt Bevin's veto of a bill that would have required Kentucky to comply with the Federal REAL ID Act. He says that by not signing the proposed legislation, Kentuckians traveling by air in 2018 and beyond will be shocked to find that they will be denied entry at the airport's security checkpoint when their driver's license does not meet federal standards. Mr. Meehan also points out that the idea of REAL ID is to "prevent bad actors from fraudulently obtaining driver's licenses under false identities."

What Mr. Meehan does not discuss in his piece are the requirements placed on states by the REAL ID Act and the further intrusion into our personal lives by an overbearing controlling government.

The REAL ID law says in part ". . . a State shall implement the following procedures: (A) . . . the State shall verify the issuance, validity, and completeness of each [person's] document[s] . . ." Further on in this paragraph, States are required to "capture digital images of identity source documents and retain paper copies of source documents, keep a permanent facial image of applicants, confirm with the Social Security Administration a social security number." All of this information must be kept in a State database and the State **MUST** provide electronic access to ALL other States!

On one hand, this may sound reasonable. The country has a huge problem with illegals and terrorists and this program could potentially help to solve much of that problem. And besides, many people have said "the government already has most of that information anyway so who cares. If this makes us more secure, I'm for it!"

This is a national identification system that Americans have traditionally been vehemently opposed to. However, the Dept. of Homeland Security website says, "REAL ID is a national set of standards, not a national identification card. REAL ID does not create a federal database . . ." This is a distinction without a difference. The Feds don't have to have a database. The law requires that the states create and maintain the database with all the necessary data on each individual and the Feds will have unlimited access to that data.

Mr. Meehan's angst that Kentuckians won't be able to fly is a non-sequitur and he implies that Kentucky is the only state not in compliance. First, the Dept. of Homeland Security lists 14 other forms of ID that are acceptable now and will be acceptable beyond the implementation of REAL ID. Second, a number of other states have refused to comply with REAL ID some going so far as to pass legislation prohibiting their state to comply.

What about security for all of these databases. If a hacker breaks into just one state database, he has access to all state databases. And to quote Jim Harper, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute, "It's bad civic hygiene to build technologies that could someday be used to facilitate a police state."

I am an honest, law abiding citizen. I am not the problem and stripping me of another one of my freedoms is not acceptable and does not deter the bad guys. How many laws do we have against murder, rape and robbery and yet we still have thousands of murders, rapes and robberies. Freedoms taken by the government are freedoms never recovered. Thank you, Gov. Bevin, for vetoing this legislation.