



Virginia licenses fail to comply with security rules as deadline looms

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Virginia is among dozens of states failing to comply with federal rules that have been described as critical to securing America by preventing terrorists from getting state IDs.

Under the REAL ID Act, those states' IDs could be rejected for use at airports in 2016 without an acceptable second form of ID. The Department of Homeland Security still is working to set a date for when it will enforce the rule.

When REAL ID was passed by Congress in 2005, states were given three years to comply, but multiple deadline extensions and adjustments have been made since then.

That has a senior fellow at the Cato Institute saying in a blog post that Americans have nothing to worry about if their states aren't in compliance.

Jim Harper predicts no one will be denied passage through airport security for not carrying a nationally endorsed ID.

"The lawsuits that follow such an action will make their heads spin. And it will all be focused at the federal government: the TSA, the DHS, and the U.S. Congress with its flaccid oversight of the security bureaucracy," Harper writes.

Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles is among agencies nationwide that have been given extensions for REAL ID compliance.

"The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has acknowledged Virginia DMV's significant progress in enhancing the security and issuance process for credentials in accordance with the REAL ID Act of 2005, and as a result, Virginia has been granted an extension until at least Oct. 10, 2015 (other states have been granted similar extensions)," Va. DMV media liaison Brandy Brubaker tells WTOP in an email.

An additional extension for Virginia is pending.

State identification issued by Maryland and the District of Columbia comply with REAL ID standards.