

REAL ID & THE STATE OF MAINE: EXPLAINER ANIMATION

UPDATED APRIL 2021 with the new federal enforcement deadline of May 3, 2023

The State of Maine offers Real ID-complaint driver's licenses and State IDs as an option for residents.

For now, you can use your current Maine driver's license or ID as valid identification for federal purposes, such as boarding commercial aircraft for domestic flights and entrance to secure federal facilities.

Enforcement of REAL ID requirements will begin on May 3, 2023.

At that time, Homeland Security will not be accepting regular Maine licenses or State IDs for any federal identification purposes.

Any Maine resident who wants a Real-ID compliant license or State ID can obtain one at their local BMV office. Those who have a valid license or ID will not be required to renew it prior to its expiration date, but may choose to do so if they need a REAL ID license or ID.

Beginning May 3, 2023, you will need a REAL ID-compliant license or State ID or an alternate form of identification, such as a U.S. passport, to access secure federal facilities and board commercial aircraft for domestic flights.

The Transportation Security Administration lists alternative IDs that are acceptable, such as a military ID or U.S. passport, online at [tsa.gov](https://www.tsa.gov).

Travelers should also note that a Real ID-compliant credential is not sufficient identification for international flights.

For information on how to obtain a passport, visit the U.S. State Department website at: travel.state.gov.

Please note that you do not need a REAL ID-compliant license or State ID to access federal benefits, operate a motor vehicle, register to vote, conduct financial transactions, show proof of age to purchase liquor or tobacco, or enter a federal courthouse. A regular Maine license or State ID will still be accepted as valid ID for these purposes.

Information about the documents and fees to obtain a REAL ID license or ID is available on our website, at www.maine.gov/realid where you will find a brochure, frequently asked questions and the history of Real ID in Maine.