

**2025 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 1501**

## 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Transportation Committee

Room JW327E, State

Capitol

HB 1501

1/31/2025

Relating to the use of out-of-state operators' licenses and nonoperator identification cards for identification and motor vehicle operation.

9:00 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVille, Frelich, Hendrix, Johnston, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz

#### **Discussion Topics:**

- Licensing requirements
- Second form of identification
- Real I.D. vs State I.D.
- Illegal Immigration
- Penalties

9:02 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing.

9:02 a.m. Representative Kieth Kempenich introduced the bill and submitted testimony

#33171.

9:29 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the hearing.

*Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk*

1501  
Kempetrich

## Brief

# States Offering Driver's Licenses to Immigrants

Updated March 13, 2023

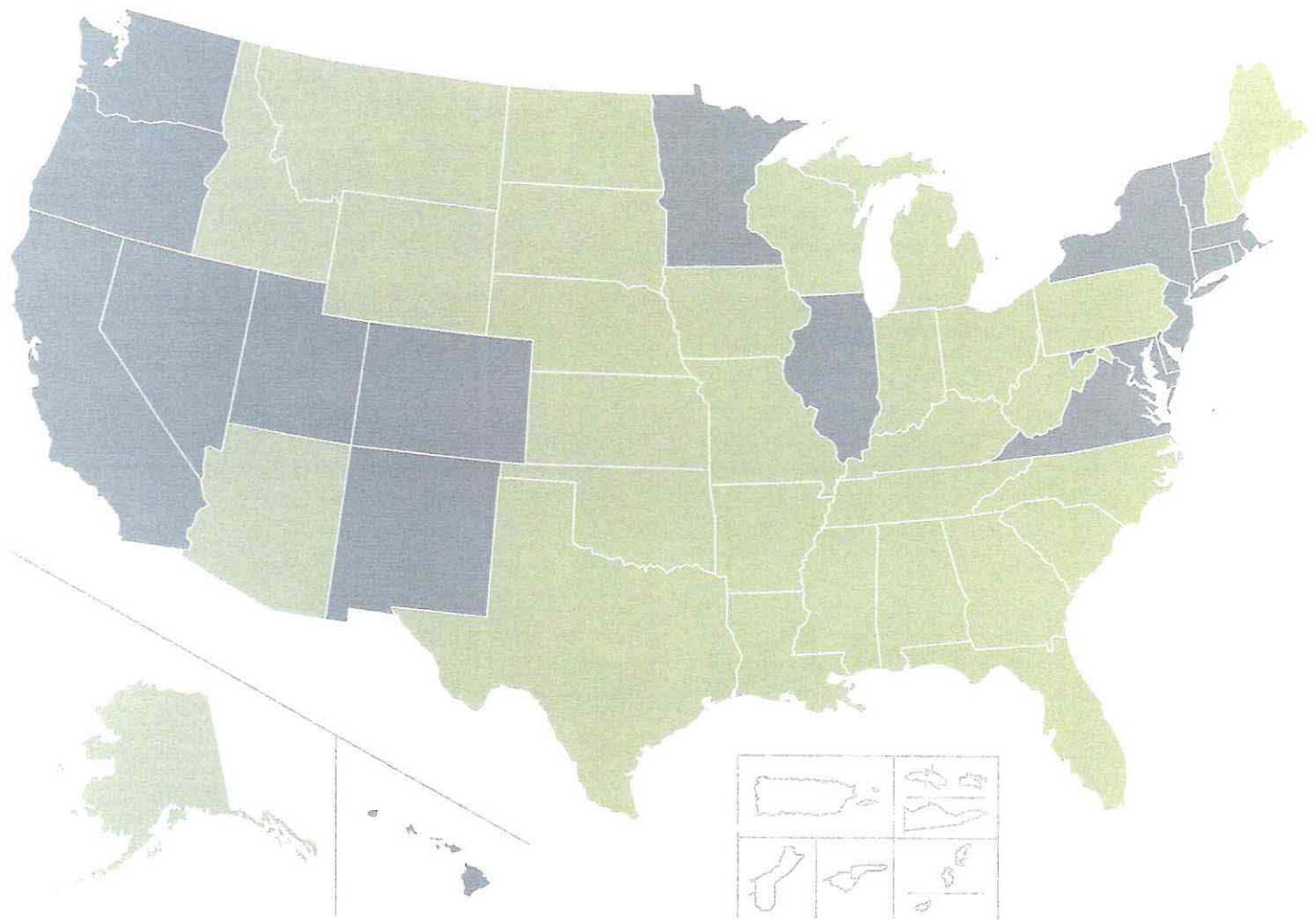
**Related Topic:** [Immigration](#)

States issue driver's licenses under the constitutional authority of the 10th Amendment. Congress enacted Real ID in 2005, creating standards for state-issued driver's licenses, including evidence of lawful status. This brief provides a summary of state legislation authorizing driver's licenses or authorization cards for unauthorized immigrants. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws to allow unauthorized immigrants to obtain driver's licenses. These states—California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Washington—issue a license if an applicant provides certain documentation, such as a foreign birth certificate, foreign passport, or consular card and evidence of current residency in the state.

In 2022, Rhode Island enacted legislation extending driver's licenses and identification cards to those without proof of lawful presence (SB 2006/HB 7939). In addition to Rhode Island, the Massachusetts legislature overrode the Governor's veto of their bill allowing those without proof of lawful presence to obtain driver's licenses (SB 4822/HB 4805). In the 2022 midterm election, Massachusetts voters were asked via ballot measure (Q4) whether the state should keep or repeal the new immigrant driver's license law, and voters ultimately elected to uphold it.

In 2023, Minnesota became the most recent state to enact legislation allowing individuals to get driver's licenses without proof of lawful presence (HB 4/SB 27).

# Immigrants and Driver's Licenses



- Does not offer driving privileges to unauthorized immigrants
- Offers driving privileges to unauthorized immigrants

## Enacted Legislation

State	Bill	Year Enacted	Summary	Effective Date
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State	Bill	Year Enacted	Summary	Effective Date
California	A 60	2013	This law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue driver's licenses to individuals who are ineligible for a Social Security number, if the required documentation is provided.	Jan. 1, 2015
Colorado	S 251	2013	This law allows individuals to qualify for a driver's license, instruction permit or identification card, despite the individual not being lawfully present or being only temporarily lawfully present in the United States if certain conditions are met, such as providing state tax returns.	Aug. 1, 2014
Connecticut	H 6495	2013	This law provides driver's licenses to applicants who submit a valid foreign passport or consular identification and proof of residency, regardless of legal presence in the United States. Applicants must file to legalize as soon as he or she is eligible	Jan. 1, 2015
Delaware	S 59	2015	This law creates the means for an undocumented immigrant to obtain a driving privilege card in Delaware. A driving privilege card or permit applicant must provide the state with satisfactory documentary evidence and that the applicant has filed a Delaware income tax return or resided in Delaware and been claimed as a dependent by an individual who has filed a state income tax return for the preceding two years. The card is not considered a valid form of identification due to the applicant's inability to prove legal presence in the U.S.	Dec. 27, 2015
Hawaii	H 1007	2015	This law authorizes the issuance of driver's licenses to residents of Hawaii who cannot provide proof of authorized presence in the	Jan. 1, 2016

State	Bill	Year Enacted	Summary	Effective Date
			United States. Applicants must provide satisfactory proof of identity and Hawaii residency.	
Illinois	S 957	2012	This law allows the Secretary of State to issue a temporary visitor's driver's license to an individual who has resided in Illinois for a specified time but is ineligible to obtain a Social Security number, and unable to prove lawful presence. A valid, unexpired foreign passport or consular identification document from their country of citizenship are acceptable forms of identification.	Nov. 28, 2013
Maryland	S 715	2013	This law authorizes the issuance of driver's licenses to those who do not have lawful status or a valid Social Security number. New applicants must provide evidence that the applicant has filed two years of Maryland income tax returns or proof of residency or have been claimed as a dependent by an individual who has filed Maryland income tax returns. The licenses are not valid for Federal identification purposes.	Jan. 1, 2014
Massachusetts	HB4805	2022	This law authorizes the issuance of drivers licenses to applicants even if they cannot provide proof of lawful presence or if they are ineligible for a social security number.	July 1, 2023
Minnesota	HB 4/SB 27	2023	This law allows undocumented immigrants to take the driver's skills test and receive a driver's license. The applicant must submit proof of identification which can include a foreign passport, birth certification or adoption certificate, as well as a secondary document proving residence in the state. The license must be marked "not for federal identification" and contain no information regarding the lawful presence of the driver's license holder.	October 1, 2023



State	Bill	Year Enacted	Summary	Effective Date
New Jersey	A4743	2019	This law creates a standard driver's license or identification that does not require proof of lawful presence. The law prohibits the motor vehicle commission from disclosing information to any federal, state or local law enforcement agency for immigration purposes without the consent of the individual, a warrant, court order or subpoena, unless such restriction is contrary to federal law. The commission may not retain copies of documents submitted to establish eligibility for a license or identification card.	June 1, 2020
New Mexico	H 173	2003	This law allows the Department of Motor Vehicles to accept tax identification numbers as a substitute for a Social Security number regardless of immigration status.	2003
New York	S 1747	2019	This law authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue standard drivers' licenses and restricts what information can be retained and given out on those applying or holding licenses.	June 17, 2019
New York	A3675	2019	This legislation allows for the issuance of a driver's license to undocumented residents and protects the data of those applying for such privilege from unwarranted release. The Department of Motor Vehicles may not disclose records to any agency that primarily enforces immigration law without a lawful court order or judicial warrant. The law requires that any person or entity that has access to information from the department to certify that the information will not be used for civil immigration purposes. Application forms for non-commercial drivers' licenses and learners' permits which do not meet federal standards for	Dec. 14, 2019

State	Bill	Year Enacted	Summary	Effective Date
			<p>identification may not state: the documents an applicant used to prove age or identity; an applicant's ineligibility for a social security number where applicable; or an applicant's citizenship or immigration status. A non-commercial driver's license or learner's permit which does not meet federal standards for identification may not be used as evidence of a person's citizenship or immigration status, and may not be the basis for investigating, arresting, or detaining a person. Such licenses must be visually identical to federal-purpose driver's licenses except that such licenses may state "Not for Federal Purposes".</p>	
Nevada	S 303	2013	<p>This law creates a driver's authorization card and allows applicants, regardless of legal status, to provide birth certificates or passports issued by a foreign country as proof of identity. This law also prohibits the release of information relating to legal status for purposes relating to the enforcement of immigration laws.</p>	Jan. 1, 2014
Oregon	H2015	2019	<p>This law eliminates the requirement that a person provide proof of legal presence before the Department of Transportation issues a noncommercial driver license, noncommercial driver permit or identification card. Acceptable documents to prove identity, date of birth or address when a person is applying for a driver license, driver permit or identification card that is not a Real ID, a commercial driver license, or a commercial learner driver permit, include: (a) An unexpired valid passport from the person's country of citizenship; (b) An unexpired valid consular identification document issued by the consulate of the person's country of</p>	Aug. 9, 2019



State	Bill	Year Enacted	Summary	Effective Date
			citizenship; (c) A driver license, driver permit or identification card issued by Oregon that expired less than 13 years before the current application; or (d) A driver license, driver permit or identification card issued by another state that is unexpired or expired less than a year before the current application.	
Rhode Island	S 2006/ H 7939	2022	This law allow any person who is unable to establish legal presence in the U.S. but meets requirements such as presenting proof of identity, proof of residency and not violating insurance requirements, to receive a driver's license or permit if the Division of Motor Vehicles deems them eligible.	July 1, 2023
Utah	S 227	2005	This law establishes a one-year driving privilege card for unauthorized immigrants. Applicants without a Social Security number must prove Utah residency for six months and provide a tax identification number. The card is expressly prohibited from being used for any identification purposes by a governmental entity.	March 8, 2005
Vermont	S 38	2013	This law allows those Vermont residents unable to establish lawful presence in the United States to be eligible for a motor vehicle operator's privilege card or alternate identification card.	Jan. 1, 2014
Virginia	HB 1211/SB 34	2020	This law creates a driving privilege card or permit for applicants who do not meet the requirements for a driver's license or permit. The applicant must have reported income and deductions from Virginia sources, or been claimed as a dependent, on an individual income tax return filed in the preceding 12 months and may not be in	Jan. 1, 2021

State	Bill	Year Enacted	Summary	Effective Date
			violation of the insurance requirements. Applicants may not be required to present proof of legal presence in the United States. A driver privilege card or permit will expire on the applicant's second birthday following the date of issuance. The front of a driver privilege card or permit must be identical in appearance to a driver's license or permit that is not a REAL ID credential and the back of the card or permit must be identical in appearance to the restriction on the back of a limited-duration license, permit or special identification card.	
Washington	H 1444	1993	This law allows drivers license applicants without Social Security numbers to provide alternate documentation to show proof of residence in the state of Washington such as home utility bills and tax identification numbers.	July 25, 1993
District of Columbia	B 275	2013	This law creates a limited purpose driver's license, permit, or identification card for a District resident who has not been assigned a Social Security number or cannot establish legal presence in the United States.	May 1, 2014

## Related Resources

Updated December 02, 2024

### State-Federal Legislative Forecast 2025: Key Issues and Trends

From fiscal challenges to tech innovations and workforce dynamics, the legislative issues dominating state discussions are also setting the stage for federal priorities. As 2025 approaches, these topics will likely shape the national agenda. Forecast '25

[Elections, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources, Fiscal, Immigration, Labor and Employment, NCSL Foundation, State-Federal, Technology](#)

*State Legislatures News*

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Transportation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1501  
2/6/2025

Relating to the use of out-of-state operators' licenses and nonoperator identification cards for identification and motor vehicle operation.

10:31 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVille, Frelich, Johnston, Hendrix, Kasper, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz  
Members Absent: Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representative Koppelman

### Discussion Topics:

- Enforcement

10:34 a.m. Representative Johnston moved a Do Not Pass.

10:34 a.m. Representative Christianson seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	AB
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	N
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	AB
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y

10:37 a.m. Motion passed 11-1-2.

10:37 a.m. Representative Morton will carry the bill.

10:37 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the meeting.

*Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1501 ([25.0583.02000](#))**

**Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (11 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1501 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.