



Motor Vehicle Administration

March 14, 2013

Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration  
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Glen Burnie, Maryland 21062

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The Honorable Brian Frosh, Chairman  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Miller Senate Building, Ste. 2E  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Dear Chairman Frosh:

I am writing to offer information on SB 715 *Maryland Highway Safety Act of 2013*. As you know, this bill permits customers who do not present documentation of lawful status to receive a driver's license or identification card that would be marked as "Not for Federal Purposes," similar to the ones that are issued to customers today who had a product prior to April 19, 2009.

Maryland has been certified by United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) as fully compliant with the federal REAL ID Act requirements, meaning that the Maryland compliant license can continue to be used for federal identification purposes. I have contacted USDHS and have been advised that SB 715 would not affect Maryland's compliance standing for REAL ID.

SB 715 would allow the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to establish a two-tiered issuance system. We will still continue to issue products that are fully compliant with the requirements of the federal REAL ID Act under one tier. A second tier would be established to issue products that are deemed non-compliant which would display markings meeting the requirements of the REAL ID Act as mentioned above.

USDHS wrote: *The REAL ID Act of 2005 and its implementing regulation allow an otherwise compliant state to choose to also issue documents that do not satisfy the REAL ID requirements (such as the requirement for states to verify that applicants are either U.S. citizens or are in an eligible lawful status categories). If a state chooses to issue non-compliant documents, it must clearly differentiate them from compliant documents using markings consistent with the Act and regulations.*

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

John T. Kuo  
Administrator

cc: Mr. Martin Harris, State Legislative Officer, MDOT  
Mr. Philip Dacey, Manager, External Affairs, MVA

Martin O'Malley - Governor  
Darrell B. Mobley - Acting Secretary

Anthony G. Brown - Lt. Governor  
John T. Kuo - Administrator