



SB 957: Protections Against Fraud

How does SB 957 protect against fraud?

- All TVDL applicants will need to provide a valid current **passport or consular ID** document. Foreign governments already establish strong procedures for issuing these documents for verifying those that get issued. These governments have no interest in enabling fraud.
- The Secretary of State photographs all applicants for any license, and uses **facial recognition** software to prevent duplicate identities.
- All applicants must show they have **lived in Illinois for at least one year**, so people would not be able to claim bogus addresses in Illinois to get a TVDL.
- The Secretary of State will also process applications at a **central location in order to verify documents**. No one will be issued a TVDL on the same day; SoS will check the applicant's documents and, if they are legitimate and meet all standards, SoS will send the TVDL to the applicant by mail.
- Finally, the Secretary of State will have the authority to set further standards for which documents he will accept.

How secure would TVDLs be?

Anyone applying for a TVDL must provide a valid current passport or consular ID. The Secretary of State would scan these documents and examine their validity before issuing a TVDL. Most countries have procedures in place to verify the validity of its passports and consular IDs. In addition, the Consular Identification Document Act already sets **stringent guidelines regarding whether the State can accept a consular ID card**, including requirements for what a consular ID applicant must provide to prove identity and nationality, security features for the cards, and other identifying information. Illinois currently accepts consular IDs from only five countries (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Mexico).

What is a Mexican Matricula Consular?

The Matrícula Consular de Alta Seguridad (or MCAS, or High Security Consular Registration Document) is the official record for Mexican individuals living abroad. Currently, the MCAS has become an important means of identification for Mexican nationals living abroad, particularly since these documents became portable documents with a picture. Essentially, the identity document issued by Mexican consulates to Mexican nationals is not significantly different in nature from other types of identity documents. The practice of consular registration has been recognized by international law. Consular posts of every country around the world exercise this service. Consular Registration Cards are the legal proof of record of such registration.

How does one qualify for a Matricula?

There are four requirements that's must be met in order to obtain a Consular ID:

1. **Proof of nationality.** Any of the following documents are accepted: Mexican birth certificate, valid Mexican passport, certification or declaration of Mexican nationality.
2. **Proof of Identity.** Any official identification issued by a Mexican or foreign authority is accepted: Mexican or US passports, driver's licenses, state ID cards, US green cards or work authorization documents, Mexican voters ID, official school records, or police clearance report with a cancelled picture.
3. **Proof of establishment (address within the consular circumscription).** These can include lease agreements, utilities bills, any official ID with the address included (i.e. drivers licenses), official correspondence (i.e. US or Mexican Social Security, US Internal Revenue Service, etc.).
4. **Issuance Fee Payment.** The applicant must pay \$27 U.S. dollars fee for issuance of the MCAS.

Main characteristics of the High Security Consular ID Card (MCAS):

- Visual and hidden security provisions to avoid falsifications.
- Supported by a centralized system to avoid duplications and confirm the authenticity of required documents and information.
- Validated against the Stop List Data Base.
- Robust verification procedure of nationality and identity.
- The procedures and requirements were homogenized to those of the Mexican High Security Passport System.

Furthermore, "... the Department [of State] views foreign consular identification cards as a possible tool for facilitating consular notification by accountable law enforcement officials... a foreign consular identification card is a means to identify an individual as a foreign national..."

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