



Homeland Security

December 20, 2012

Colonel Michael Edmonson
Deputy Secretary
Public Safety Services
Louisiana State Police
P.O. Box 66614
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70893

Dear Colonel Edmonson:

This letter is to advise you that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has reviewed your October 18, 2012 correspondence regarding the State of Louisiana's progress in meeting the minimum security standards of the REAL ID Act ("Act") and regulation.

First of all we would like to congratulate you and the State of Louisiana for your efforts in supporting our shared goal of improving the security of state-issued driver licenses and identification cards. While the information provided demonstrates that your state has made substantial progress in meeting the security standards of the Act, DHS does not have sufficient information to determine when the State of Louisiana expects to meet all of the provisions of the regulation. We request that you provide DHS with additional information of how and when your state will implement the requirements.

To receive a Final Determination that your state meets the Act's requirements, the State of Louisiana should submit to DHS, within 30 calendar days of the receipt of this letter, certification documents allowing DHS to determine when the State of Louisiana expects to meet the security standards of the Act or have a comparable program that meets those standards.

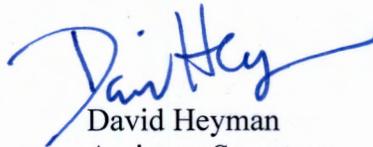
DHS is granting deferments for states that it is unable to determine as meeting the Act's requirements by January 15, 2013. Under this deferment, Federal agencies may continue to accept for official purposes – including boarding aircraft – driver's licenses and identity cards issued by all states. DHS will undertake, in consultation with States and stakeholders, to develop a schedule for the phased enforcement of the Act's statutory prohibitions to ensure that states are treated in a fair and proportional manner. DHS expects to publish a schedule by early fall 2013 and begin implementation at a suitable date thereafter. States that continue to provide information and show progress will be in the best position for DHS to be able to continue to grant deferments.

DHS is committed to working with the State of Louisiana in meeting the security standards for driver's licenses and identification cards to ensure that Federal agencies may continue to accept them for official purposes. DHS's Office of State-Issued Identification

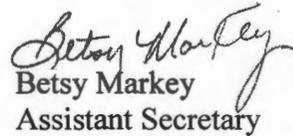
Support (OSIIS) will work with you or your designee to answer questions about the information needed for a Final Determination of Full Compliance.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other homeland security issues. Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the OSIIS at (202) 447-3871.

Sincerely,



David Heyman
Assistant Secretary
for Policy



Betsy Markey
Assistant Secretary
for Intergovernmental Affairs

cc: Kevin Davis, Director, Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness