

Maryland's REAL ID program receives recertification

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Glen Burnie, MD -- The Department of Homeland Security has given its stamp of approval to Maryland's REAL ID program.

The agency on Wednesday recertified the Maryland Department of Transportation's MVA's REAL ID process, making Maryland the first state to achieve that designation.

That means Maryland has all the documentation and security procedures in place that are required to make the state's REAL ID driver's licenses and identification cards compliant with federal law.

The REAL ID Act was passed by Congress after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and creates standards for secure driver's licenses and identification cards nationwide. By the October 2020 deadline, all Marylanders must have documents on file and be REAL ID compliant to use a state-issued driver's license or identification card to board an airplane or enter federal government facilities. Documents required include: a birth certificate or passport, proof of social security and two documents proving Maryland residence.

In 2011, Maryland became one of the first states in the nation to have its REAL ID process certified.

Residents who aren't sure if they're REAL ID compliant, can follow this link to check their status online: <https://realid.mva.maryland.gov/>.

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