

DRIVER'S LICENSES

FOR ALL



Equal Access to Roads Act FAQ

What does the bill do?

The Equal Access to Roads Act would expand eligibility for a standard driver's license to all Oregon residents by returning the standard driver's license to a pre-2008 set of application requirements. The proposed bill:

- Allows all Oregon residents who pass written and driving tests, pay the fees, and provide proof of identity and residency to receive a standard driver's license, regardless of citizenship status.
- Provides protection to ensure a person's information is secured and not shared with the federal government.
- Provides anti-discrimination language to ensure a person isn't targeted for having a standard license.
- The Equal Access to Roads Act will include an emergency clause.

How will this bill work with Real ID implementation?

Oregon is required to implement new stricter federal standards for issuing an enhanced driver's license to bring the state into compliance with the federal Real ID Act passed in 2005.

Under these new standards, the state will provide two different kinds of driver's licenses. One kind is the enhanced license, which will be Real ID-compliant and can be used for air travel, access to federal buildings, and other restricted areas. The other kind is a standard license, similar to what Oregon drivers have now, which will be a license to drive only and cannot be used for federal identification purposes.

To get an enhanced license, Oregonians must submit additional identification documents and proof of citizenship. These include a passport or original certified birth certificate, proof of a social security number, and certain types of photo ID.

To get a standard license, the Equal Access to Roads Act proposes to allow all Oregon residents who pass written and driving tests, pay the fees, and provide proof of identity and residency to receive a standard driver's license, regardless of citizenship status.

Oregon will begin offering enhanced licenses in July of 2020. To ensure successful implementation, the Equal Access to Roads Act is proposed to be implemented on January 1, 2021.

What if I don't want the Real ID enhanced driver's license?

The Equal Access to Roads Act would allow Oregonians who do not want, cannot afford, or do not have access to the documents required for an enhanced license to keep or apply for a standard Oregon license—if they meet all other DMV requirements to drive. This includes people such as the elderly, low-income individuals, and immigrants without legal status.

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Who will benefit from this bill?

All Oregonians will benefit. Our communities and roads will be safer and we will uphold Oregon's values of fairness, looking out for our neighbors, and treating others as we would want to be treated.

Under the Equal Access to Roads Act, all drivers who pass a knowledge exam, driver's test and provide proof of identity and insurance will be eligible for a standard driver's license, and can choose it over the more expensive, enhanced Real ID driver's license. The proposed bill will positively impact many Oregonians, particularly the elderly, immigrants without legal status, low income individuals, those born in other states, people who are houseless, victims of domestic violence, and victims of natural disasters.

How are Oregonians impacted by not having driver's licenses?

The ability to drive legally is a core everyday need for many Oregon families as people take their kids to school, commute to work, and take care of family and neighbors in need. Approximately 130k immigrants without legal status could be impacted by this bill.¹ Oregonians might disagree about how Congress should reform our complex and broken immigration system, but we can all agree that our immigrant friends and neighbors shouldn't be separated from their families and sent to a country they don't know over a traffic stop. Since 2016, deportations due to traffic violations have increased by 138%.²

Will the Equal Access to Roads Act make us safer?

All drivers, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, will be required to pass a written safety exam and driver's test and provide proof of identity and insurance, making Oregon roads and communities safer for everyone. In many communities, especially in rural Oregon, driving is part of everyday life. It's not practical or safe for people to walk for miles on country roads just to get to and from work or take care of their families. In states with similar laws, traffic accidents and hit-and-run incidents have decreased and the number of insured driver rates have increased significantly.

If passed, when would the bill take effect?

The bill would take effect immediately and includes an emergency clause so that the DMV can start preparations to implement the bill as soon as possible. The implementation date is proposed to be January 1, 2021 to give the DMV time to successfully implement this bill.

How will this impact motor voter?

This bill will not impact motor voter. The DMV already has an effective system in place to sort out those who are not eligible to vote because the DMV currently issues driver's licenses to non-citizens including legal permanent residents, visa holders, and DACA recipients.

How much will this bill cost?

The DMV has estimated that this bill will cost \$3 million to hire the staffing needed to attend to customers.

For more information, you can call (503) 409-2473
or visit www.causaoregon.org

¹ See, U.S. Unauthorized Immigration Population Estimates, Pew Research Center, Nov. 3, 2016

² "Deportations of traffic offenders skyrocketed under Trump, study says." <https://www.ajc.com/news/national/deportations-traffic-offenders-skyrocketed-under-trump-study-says/dYyWHWitrRge5Lwb802JaL/>. Accessed 31 Jan. 2019.