

An early heads-up



Secretary of State offices now issuing REAL ID-compliant licenses, ID cards

Michigan residents now have the option, as of Aug. 28, of applying for a driver's license or ID card that will allow them to board flights and enter federal facilities to comply with a federal mandate, Secretary of State Ruth Johnson announced.

"Without a card accepted by the federal government, Michigan residents will face the inconvenience and extra expense of having to get a passport or another accepted document to fly or visit federal buildings," Johnson said. "To avoid future headaches for travelers, we will offer a compliant card for those who want one, and, for those who don't, we still have the standard card for normal identification purposes."

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, the [federal government will not allow](#) Michigan residents carrying a driver's license or ID card that does not comply with the federal REAL ID Act to board domestic flights, or enter federal buildings, nuclear plants or military bases unless they have another accepted identity document.

Card-holders who do not apply for a REAL ID-compliant license or ID card will receive a standard one with "Not for federal identification" printed on it. These cards still will be valid for driving, identification purposes and buying age-restricted items. Applying for a REAL ID-compliant card does not cost additional money unless the applicant obtains a compliant card outside of their normal renewal period.

Michigan residents should check their license or ID card renewal notice when it arrives in the mail for information about whether they already have complied with REAL ID identification requirements. To obtain a compliant card, residents will need to bring a [certified birth certificate or another approved document](#) to any Secretary of State office.