

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 170 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY SIPTROTH, BELFANTI, BIANCUCCI, FAIRCHILD,
HENNESSEY, KOTIK, KULA, PALLONE, PRESTON, READSHAW, SANTONI,
STABACK, SURRA, YOUNGBLOOD, BARRAR AND KIRKLAND,
MARCH 29, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
MARCH 29, 2007

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Secretary of Homeland Security to
2 provide the assistance needed for implementation of the REAL
3 ID Act of 2005 and urging the Congress of the United States
4 to provide the funding needed for implementation of the act.

5 WHEREAS, In May 2005 the Congress passed and President Bush
6 signed into law the REAL ID Act of 2005, which was attached to
7 the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the
8 Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (H.R. 1268, P.L.
9 109-13); and

10 WHEREAS, Under the REAL ID Act of 2005 (REAL ID), a state
11 must implement new minimum Federal standards for the issuance of
12 driver's licenses (DL) and identification cards (ID) by May 2008
13 or the Federal Government will not recognize the state's DL/ID
14 for Federal purposes; and

15 WHEREAS, REAL ID unifies the disparate identification
16 credentialing among states and makes it harder to fraudulently
17 obtain or produce a driver's license or identification card; and

1 WHEREAS, Certain REAL ID provisions were impelled by the
2 lawful presence in the United States of the September 11, 2001,
3 terrorists who possessed legitimate driver's licenses and
4 identification cards; and

5 WHEREAS, Title II of REAL ID repeals the provisions of a
6 December 2004 law that established a cooperative state-Federal
7 process to create Federal standards for driver's licenses and
8 directly imposes prescriptive Federal standards for the issuance
9 of driver's licenses and identification cards; and

10 WHEREAS, Funds are needed for states to comply with REAL ID
11 requirements to issue a new driver's license and identification
12 card to citizens; to recredential existing license and
13 identification card holders, including 8.9 million in the
14 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to ensure the physical security of
15 locations where driver's licenses and identification cards are
16 produced and the security of the raw materials from which they
17 are made; to provide additional training and background checks
18 for Department of Motor Vehicle employees; to upgrade, adapt and
19 maintain existing systems; and to complete the extensive
20 document verification requirements; and

21 WHEREAS, REAL ID provides the Department of Homeland Security
22 (DHS) with the authority to make grants to states to assist in
23 conforming to the minimum Federal standards to carry out the law
24 but does not appropriate any funding to defray implementation or
25 ongoing costs; and

26 WHEREAS, It has been estimated that the cost of implementing
27 REAL ID to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania could be up to \$100
28 million or more; and

29 WHEREAS, The Department of Homeland Security has issued its
30 draft regulations, which estimate the cost of implementing REAL

1 ID for all states combined at \$23.1 billion over 10 years, of
2 which \$10 billion to \$14 billion is costs to states; and

3 WHEREAS, It remains unclear how much total funding will
4 actually come from the Federal Government and how much the
5 states will have to bear costs of this mandate by raising fees
6 on driver's licenses and identification cards or by other
7 potential cost-recovery measures; and

8 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is in immediate
9 need of significant, assured funding from the Federal Government
10 to successfully carry out the REAL ID requirements and comply
11 with this congressional mandate; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
13 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Secretary of
14 Homeland Security to provide the assistance needed for REAL ID
15 implementation; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Congress
17 to appropriate the funding necessary to support implementation
18 and ongoing costs of REAL ID to states; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
20 the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, to the
21 presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member
22 of Congress from Pennsylvania.