Alaska State Legislature

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Standing Committee on Resources

Special Committee on Energy

Representative DeLena Goodwin Johnson

Sponsor Statement
House Joint Resolution 15

"Encouraging repeal of the REAL ID Act of 2005"

Upon the passage of the REAL ID Act of 2005 the United States Congress imposed the burden of not only an unfunded mandate payable by we the people of the United States of America, but also; an inherent infringement upon our 10th Amendment of the United States Constitution, a dramatic risk to security of the personal identity information of all American citizens, and a drastic increase to the work load of Departments of Motor Vehicles across the Nation.

U.S.C. Title 43 Section 30301: Definitions "(2) 'chief driver licensing official' means the official in a State who is authorized by the State to- (A) maintain a record about a motor vehicle operator's license issued by the State; and (B) issue, deny, revoke, suspend, or cancel a motor vehicle operator's license issued by the State. (5) 'motor vehicle operator's license' means a license issued by a State authorizing an individual to operate a motor vehicle on public streets, roads, or highways."

With the full implementation of REAL ID the United States will have a national set of minimum standards for the State production and issuance of Driver's Licenses such as: the requirement that States "(1) Employ technology to capture digital images of identity source documents so that the images can be retained in electronic storage in a transferable format. (3) Subject each person applying for a driver's license or identification card to mandatory facial image capture. (12) Provide electronic access to all other States to information contained in the motor vehicle database of the State." [HR 1268 Sec 202(c)(3)(C)(d)]

The State of Alaska was 1 of 50 States whom either applied for an extension, or was granted an extension to the original compliance deadline of May 11, 2008. The State of Alaska is 1 of 19 States that currently has either; an extension, or limited extension. All of these extensions will have run their course, by October 2017; at which point all States not working towards compliance will be subject to penalties imposed by the federal Government. For non-compliant States this also means that unless an individual is a possessor of a REAL ID compliant piece of Identification, he or she will not be able to enter any Federal Facility or military base which currently requires presentation of identification after June 7th, 2017. Furthermore he or she, will also be turned away by TSA security checkpoints across the nation if the identification presented is not on the approved list of federally recognized pieces of Identification, after October of 2020.

House Joint Resolution 15 encourages the Congress, and Executive Branch, of the United States of America to repeal the Real ID Act of 2005 due to the Act's disregard of the 10th Amendment of the US Constitution, the overstep of the Federal Government by imposing an unfunded mandate upon every State in the Union, and most importantly due to the Act in question not making the United States measurably safer. HJR 15 is attempting to serve as a reminder to the Congress, President, and Vice President of the United States of America as to the burden imposed by the full implementation of the Real ID. HJR 15 continues the efforts of House Joint Resolution 19 of the 25th Session of the Alaska State Legislature which passed both the House and Senate with Bipartisan support. Keeping cognizant of the security of the personal privacy of all Alaskans as well as all American Citizens, the rights delegated to the States by the 10th Amendment, and the current state of Alaska's State Budget; I humbly ask for your support on this resolution.