



2006 REAL ID Advisory Committee Recommendations

The Real ID Advisory Committee met twice during the interim to discuss the technology implications of the Real ID Act, a federal act that will require states to adhere to certain standards and procedures in issuing driver's licenses. The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles updated the committee at both meetings about steps being taken at the Department to comply with Real ID, as well as concerns about costs and other implementation issues. The Department is expected to release a report to the General Assembly by the end of the year about Real ID.

Many national organizations have also been involved in Real ID discussion and analysis. Specifically, the National Conference of State Legislatures, in conjunction with the National Governors' Association and the Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, conducted a state-by-state survey about the Act, and estimate that it will cost the states, collectively, about \$11 billion over five years to implement the various requirements of the Act.

Compounding the difficulty of the Act is the fact that the federal government has yet to issue regulations concerning the specific requirements, leaving a number of questions about necessary state actions. The regulations are now a year overdue, and are expected in January, 2007. With a compliance date of May, 2008 for the Real ID Act, this leaves little time for states to take necessary action.

Because of these unknowns, the Advisory Committee did not make any formal recommendations. Instead, it encouraged the Department of Motor Vehicles to continue to communicate with Delegate Alexander and Delegate May -- the legislative representatives on the advisory committee -- about needs, concerns, and issues related to implementation.