



**MURIEL BOWSER**  
**MAYOR**

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Enclosed for consideration and enactment by the Council of the District of Columbia is the, Motor Vehicle Operator Permit and Identification Card Extension Amendment Act of 2024.

The federal REAL ID law and regulations, as well as District law, allow for the issuance of a driver license or identification card (“credential”) for up to eight years. The credential can be renewed online or by mail at the eight-year point. At sixteen years, the individual is required to appear at a Department of Motor Vehicles facility for among other things, to have a new photo taken.

This legislation will allow members of the military, foreign service members, and civilian federal government employees and contractors, as well as their respective dependents, to obtain a non-REAL ID credential for up to two years, if the person is required to obtain a new REAL ID in-person and is not able to renew in person due to serving outside of the District.


I urge the Council’s prompt and favorable consideration of the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser", written in a cursive style.

Muriel Bowser

Enclosure

  
Chairman Phil Mendelson  
at the request of the Mayor

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A BILL

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To amend the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925 to allow certain individuals who have been issued a REAL ID noncommercial operator permit or identification card to extend the license or card expiration for two years.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this Act may be cited as the “Department of Motor Vehicles Operator Permit and Identification Card Extension Amendment Act of 2024”.

Sec. 2. Section 7(a)(6) of the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925, effective March 3, 1925 (43 Stat. 1121; D.C. Official Code § 50–1401.01(a)(6)), is amended to read as follows:

“(a)(6)(A) A REAL ID operator’s permit or identification card (hereinafter referred to as “permit or card”) that was issued by the Mayor in compliance with 6 C.F.R. Part 37 shall be extended upon fulfillment of the requirements in subparagraph (B) below for a resident of the District who is:

“(i) serving outside of the District in the armed forces of the United States as that term is defined in 10 U.S.C § 101(a)(4);

“(ii) serving outside of the District as a member of the diplomatic service of the United States appointed under the Foreign Service Act of 1946, approved August 13, 1946 (60 Stat. 999; 22 U.S.C. § 801 *et seq.*);

34 “(iii) a civilian employee of the United States government or any  
35 agency or contractor thereof serving outside of the District on behalf of the United States  
36 government; or

37 “(iv) a spouse or dependent child accompanying any such member  
38 of the armed forces, diplomatic service, civilian employee of the United States government or  
39 any agency or contractor thereof who is serving outside of the District.

40 “(B) To apply for a permit or card under this paragraph, an individual  
41 shall:

42 “(i) Apply for the extension of the permit or card within 365 days  
43 of expiration of the permit or card;

44 “(ii) Be required to renew the permit or card in person as set forth  
45 in 37 C.F.R. § 37.25 and be unable to appear in person;

46 “(iii) Provide written documentation that confirms the person’s  
47 status set forth in (i)-(iv) of subparagraph (A) above and location outside of the District; and

48 “(iv) Pay a fee of \$20.

49 “(C) For purposes of this subsection, “dependent child” means an  
50 applicant’s child by blood or by law, including an adopted child, step-child, or foster child who  
51 is:

52 “(i) Under 26 years of age; or

53 “(ii) An unmarried child regardless of age who is incapable of self-  
54 support because of mental or physical disability.

55 “(D) The Director may require documentation to determine whether the  
56 individual meets the qualification of “dependent child”.

57                                   “(E) The extension shall be for no greater than a 2-year term and is not  
58 renewable.

59                                   “(F) The permit or card issued under this paragraph shall state the  
60 following on the face of the card and in its machine-readable zone in a font no larger than the  
61 smallest font appearing on the credential: “Not valid for official federal purposes”.”

62                                   Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

63                                   The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
64 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
65 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

66                                   Sec. 4. Effective date.

67                                   This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
68 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as  
69 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
70 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
71 Columbia Register.

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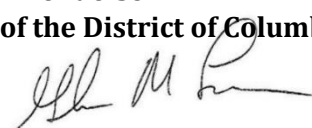
Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



**Glen Lee**  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Glen Lee  
Chief Financial Officer 

**DATE:** April 21, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Department of Motor Vehicles Operator Permit and Identification Card Extension Amendment Act of 2023

**REFERENCE:** Draft Bill as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on March 20, 2023

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 budget and the proposed fiscal year 2024 through fiscal year 2027 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

In 2014, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) launched the District's federally compliant REAL ID driver's licenses and identification cards. As residents' documents became eligible for renewal (or new residents moved to the District), DMV required the residents to renew in person to provide the required documentation for the new 8-year REAL ID documents. DMV allows each REAL ID holder to renew online at the first renewal and then requires them to renew again in person at the second renewal (year 16).

The legislation allows residents with a REAL ID who are serving in the military, diplomatic corps, or as employee of the United States government outside the District, or their spouses or dependent children, to obtain an extension of up to two years. DMV will issue a temporary card if the resident applies in writing within one year of their current document's expiration date, is unable to appear in person, and pays a \$20 fee. Current law allows DMV to extend the validity of a DMV driver's license or identification card for up to six years;<sup>1</sup> a standard which is now outdated with REAL IDs.

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<sup>1</sup> District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925, effective March 3, 1925 (43 Stat. 1121; D.C. Official Code § 50-1401.01(a)(6)).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Department of Motor Vehicles Operator Permit and Identification Card Extension Amendment Act of 2023," Draft Bill as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on March 20, 2023

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 budget and the proposed fiscal year 2024 through fiscal year 2027 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Over 99 percent of the District's residents hold REAL ID compliant documents and the first residents who will be required to renew in person will do so beginning in 2030. The bill will allow any residents who are outside of the District for military, diplomatic, or other government service to request an extension of up to two years if needed. Any costs for temporary DMV documents will be borne by the agency beginning in calendar year 2030 which falls outside of the current financial plan period.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Office of the Attorney General



Legal Counsel Division

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Tommy Wells  
Director  
Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs

**FROM:** Megan D. Browder  
Deputy Attorney General  
Legal Counsel Division

**DATE:** May 3, 2023

**RE:** Legal Sufficiency Certification of Draft Legislation, the “Department of Motor Vehicle Operator Permit and Identification Card Extension Amendment Act of 2023” and Transmittal Letter  
(AE-23-132)

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**This is to Certify that** this Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft legislation and found it to be legally sufficient. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 724-5524.

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Megan D. Browder