

2015 -- H 5459

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

OPPOSING FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REAL ID ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Roberts, Nunes, Azzinaro, Abney, and Filippi

Date Introduced: February 12, 2015

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, In May of 2005, the United States Congress enacted the REAL ID Act of
2 2005 (REAL ID Act) as part of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the
3 Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief Act (Public Law 109-13). It was signed by President
4 Bush on May 11, 2005, and initially, it was to become fully effective on May 11, 2008; and

5 WHEREAS, Due to mounting pushback from many states, implementation of the act was
6 delayed. However, the first two stages of compliance are now complete and the third phase is set
7 to be put into practice in October of 2015. These three phases require persons to use REAL ID
8 compliant cards in order to enter nuclear power plants, restricted federal facilities and semi-
9 restricted federal facilities such as courthouses and military bases; and

10 WHEREAS, The fourth phase of the REAL ID Act is set to begin in January of 2016.
11 This requirement will be executed in airports across the country, with the Transportation Security
12 Administration still accepting a valid passport for identification, but no longer accepting state-
13 issued driver's licenses that lack the REAL ID compliant feature in order to board a plane; and

14 WHEREAS, The implementation of the REAL ID Act intrudes upon Rhode Island's
15 sovereign power to determine its own policies for identification, licensure, and credentialing of
16 individuals residing therein; and

17 WHEREAS, The REAL ID Act converts the state driver's licensing function into federal
18 law enforcement and national security functions that are outside the purpose and core competency
19 of driver licensing bureaus; and

20 WHEREAS, The requirement that states maintain databases of information about their

1 citizens and residents and then share this personal information with all other states will expose
2 every state to the information security weaknesses of every other state; and

3 WHEREAS, The REAL ID Act threatens the privacy and liberty of all Rhode Islanders,
4 but particularly those individuals belonging to unpopular or minority groups, including racial and
5 cultural organizations, firearm owners and collectors, faith-based and religious affiliates, political
6 parties, and social movements; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
8 Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests Rhode Island's Congressional Delegation to
9 oppose and suspend further implementation of the REAL ID Act; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

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