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Transportation and Motor Vehicles

U-3 Driving Privileges and ID Cards in Other States for Those Who Cannot Prove Lawful Presence

Kansas does not provide any driving credentials for those who cannot prove lawful presence in the United States, but other states have authorized such credentials, for reasons including allowing those who cannot prove lawful presence to obtain vehicle insurance.

Kansas Law Requires Citizenship or Lawful Presence for a Driver's License

Kansas law has, since 2000, provided that an applicant for a driver's license or instruction permit must be lawfully present in the United States, with language in KSA 2013 Supp. 8-237 and 8-240. Since 2007, the language in KSA 8-240(b) has read this way:

(2) The division shall not issue any driver's license or instruction permit to any person who fails to provide proof that the person is lawfully present in the United States. Before issuing a driver's license or instruction permit to a person, the division shall require valid documentary evidence that the applicant: (A) Is a citizen or national of the United States; (B) is an alien lawfully admitted for permanent or temporary residence in the United States; (C) has conditional permanent resident status in the United States; (D) has an approved application for asylum in the United States or has entered into the United States in refugee status; (E) has a valid, unexpired nonimmigrant visa or nonimmigrant visa status for entry into the United States; (F) has a pending application for asylum in the United States; (G) has a pending or approved application for temporary protected status in the United States; (H) has approved deferred action status; or (I) has a pending application for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States or conditional permanent resident status in the United States.

(3) If an applicant provides evidence of lawful presence set out in subsections (b)(2)(E) through (2)(I), or is an alien lawfully admitted for temporary residence under subsection (b)(2)(B), the division may only issue a driver's license to the person under the following conditions: (A) A driver's license issued pursuant to this subparagraph shall be valid only during the period of time of the applicant's authorized stay in the United States or, if there is no definite end to the period of authorized stay, a period of one

year; (B) a driver's license issued pursuant to this subparagraph shall clearly indicate that it is temporary and shall state the date on which it expires; (C) no driver's license issued pursuant to this subparagraph shall be for a longer period of time than the time period permitted by subsection (a) of KSA 8-247, and amendments thereto; and (D) a driver's license issued pursuant to this subparagraph may be renewed, subject at the time of renewal, to the same requirements and conditions as set out in this subsection (b) for the issuance of the original driver's license.

The Department of Revenue states, in July 2011, it began utilizing the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service's "Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement System" to determine the status of temporary residents in the United States when such applicants apply for a Kansas driver's License, instruction permit or non-driver identification card. The applicant also must prove residency in Kansas, as any other applicant.¹

According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, "An individual who has received deferred action is authorized by [the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)] to be present in the United States, and is therefore considered by DHS to be lawfully present during the period deferred action is in effect."²

Various Other States Allow Driving Credentials for Those Who Cannot Prove Lawful Presence

As of early October 2013, 11 states had enacted law to authorize driver's licenses, ID cards, or both to those who do not provide satisfactory documentary evidence that the applicant has lawful immigration status or a valid Social Security

1 Documents approved as proof of residency are listed on the Department of Revenue website <http://www.ksrevenue.org/dmvproof.html>.

2 <http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-process/frequently-asked-questions>, accessed November 2014.

number. Three of those states had authorization in place before 2013:³

- In 1999, Washington State amended its driver's license and ID card proof of identity statute (RCW 46.20.035) to specify that only a driver's license or ID card issued to an applicant providing certain types of proof of identity is valid for identification purposes and, if the applicant is unable to prove his or her identity, must be labeled "not valid for identification purposes." Washington regulations list documents that can be used to prove identity, such as a federal or state agency identification card, a U.S. passport, a foreign passport accompanied by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation, and a military identification card that contains the signature and a photograph of the applicant. Applicants who wish to provide other types of identification may request Department of Licensing review. A 2011 attempt to amend the law failed because, according to a report for another legislature, "legislators (1) believed that additional verification measures required to end licensing for undocumented immigrants would have cost as much as \$1.5 million and (2) were worried about the state's ability to harvest apples if undocumented immigrants could not drive to the orchards."⁴
- The 2003 New Mexico Legislature added this sentence to its main statute regarding applications for driver's licenses (NMSA 66-5-9): "For foreign nationals applying for driver's licenses the secretary

3 According to a May 2013 report to Connecticut legislators, California, Hawaii, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Oregon, and Tennessee are "states that previously permitted undocumented immigrants to drive" but "stopped doing so between 2003 and 2010 for various reasons; these reversals resulted from both legislative and executive actions." Issuance of Driver's Licenses to Undocumented Immigrants, Connecticut General Assembly Office of Legislative Research Report 2013-R-0194, May 29, 2013. California, Maine, Maryland, and Oregon again enacted permissive laws in 2013.

4 Ibid.

shall accept the individual taxpayer identification number as a substitute for a social security number regardless of immigration status.” Earlier legislation had included, “The secretary is authorized to establish by regulation other documents that may be accepted as a substitute for a social security number.” Various bills have been introduced to amend these and other provisions.

- In 2005, the Utah Legislature modified its Public Safety Code to prohibit issuing a driver’s license to any person who is not a Utah resident and to offer a driving privilege card to those without Social Security numbers (Utah Statutes 53-3-204 et seq.). A driving privilege card is to be clearly distinguishable from a driver’s

license and include a notice to the effect that the card is not valid for identification; government entities may not accept the card as identification. A “driving privilege card” expires each year on the person’s birthday. An applicant for a driving privilege card is required to provide fingerprints as well as a photograph; the state’s Bureau of Criminal Identification must check the fingerprints against state and regional criminal databases and notify the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency if the person has a felony in the person’s criminal history record.

Nine states authorized driving privileges for certain undocumented residents in 2013:

State	Bill; Session Law	Date Became Law	Implementation Date
California (CA)	AB 60; Ch. 524	Oct. 3, 2013	Jan. 1, 2015
Colorado (CO)	SB 13-251; Ch. 402	June 5, 2013	Aug. 1, 2014
Connecticut (CT)	HB 6495; P.A. 13-89	June 6, 2013	Jan. 1, 2015
Illinois (IL)	SB 957; P.A. 097-1157	Jan. 22, 2013	Nov. 28, 2013
Maine (ME)	H.P. 980; Ch. 163	May 29, 2013	Oct. 9, 2013
Maryland (MD)	SB 715; Ch. 309	May 2, 2013	Jan. 1, 2014
Nevada (NV)	SB 303; Ch. 282	May 31, 2013	Jan 1, 2014
Oregon (OR)	SB 833; Ch. 48	May 1, 2013	Jan 1, 2014
Vermont (VT)	S. 38; Act 074	June 5, 2013	Jan. 1, 2014

The implementation date for Oregon’s law is stricken because, via the referendum process, the law was placed on the general ballot of the November 2014 election, where it was rejected by voters.⁵

The District of Columbia authorized a limited purpose driver’s license, permit, or identification card early in 2014, with D.C. Law 20-62 (D.C. Code 50-1401.05); those credentials have been available since May 1, 2014. An amendment to Puerto Rico’s Motor Vehicle and Traffic Law

approved in June 2013 also allows driver’s licenses to certain undocumented residents.

The provisions in the bills authorizing driver’s licenses, ID cards, or both for those who cannot prove lawful presence vary in many ways. Maine’s new law only adds phrases to existing law to exempt an applicant for renewal of a noncommercial driver’s license or non-driver ID card from requirements to prove lawful presence if the applicant has continuously held the driver’s license or ID card since December 31, 1989, or was born before December 1, 1964. Several states differentiate between a driver’s license, which can be used to prove identity, and the new document,

⁵ http://ballotpedia.org/Oregon_Alternative_Driver_Licenses_Referendum,_Measure_88_%282014%29 and <http://oregonvotes.gov/results/2014G/562976592.html>

calling it a “driving privilege card,” “operator’s privilege card,” or similar term. (The term “driver’s license” is used in this article and is used to refer to all types, including learner permits.) The cards will include identity features such as full name, birth date, signature, and photo, and all 2013 bills except Maine’s 6 included these provisions:

- An applicant must provide proof of identity;
- An applicant must provide proof of residency within the state; and

- An applicant for any driver’s license must meet all additional requirements for driving, such as passing driving skills tests and maintaining vehicle insurance.

The following tables illustrate ways in which the new laws except Maine’s are similar and dissimilar; they greatly simplify the bills’ provisions and do not include all requirements. The tables are based on the bills listed above only and not on the entirety of each state’s laws.

Comparisons of New Driver’s License and ID Laws									
<i>Driver’s license, ID card, or both authorized in the bills</i>									
Driver’s license authorized; applicant must meet all additional requirements for a driver’s license	CA	CO	CT	DC	IL	MD	NV	OR	VT
Not applicable to a commercial driver’s license	CA	CO				MD	NV	OR	
ID card authorized	CA	CO		DC		MD			VT
License or ID card must be easily distinguishable	CA	CO	CT			MD	NV	OR	VT
<i>Identity may be proven with these documents listed in the bills:</i>									
Passport	CA	CO	CT				NV	OR	VT
Consular identification document	CA	CO	CT		IL		NV	OR	VT
Birth certificate	CA		CT				NV		VT
Marriage license	CA		CT						VT
Foreign voter registration or voter ID document	CA		CT						
Foreign driver’s license	CA		CT						
U.S. application for asylum	CA								
Official school transcript	CA		CT						
Military identification		CO					NV		
Other ^{a)}	CA		CT	DC				OR	VT
<i>Residency may be proven with these documents listed in the bills:</i>									
Home utility bill	CA		CT				NV		
Lease or rental document	CA		CT				NV	OR	
Deed or title to real property	CA							OR	
Property tax bill or statement	CA		CT						
Income tax return	CA	CO				MD		OR	
Bank or credit card statement			CT				NV		VT
Pay stub			CT				NV		
Insurance document			CT				NV		VT
Medical bill			CT				NV		VT
Other ^{b)}	CA	CO	CT	DC	IL		NV	OR	VT

Additional eligibility provisions in the bills:									
Available to those who can and those who cannot prove lawful presence				DC			NV		VT
Applicant must sign an affidavit stating the applicant is ineligible for a Social Security number	CA					MD		OR	
Applicant must sign an affidavit that the applicant is unable to submit satisfactory proof that the applicant's presence in the U.S. is authorized under federal law	CA		CT						
Applicant may not have been convicted of any felony in the state			CT						
Limitations on uses specified in the bills; the driver's license or ID card may <u>not</u> be used for:									
Official federal purposes	CA	CO	CT	DC		MD			VT
Proof of identity					IL				
Evidence of citizenship or immigration status	CA			DC					
Eligibility for public benefits	CA	CO					NV		
Limitations on uses specified in the bills; the driver's license or ID card may <u>not</u> be used for:									
Voting		CO	CT						
Eligibility for any license							NV		
Purchasing a firearm						MD			
Enforcement of immigration laws	CA	CO		DC			NV		
Other ^{c)}	CA							OR	
Card must include a statement about its acceptable uses	CA	CO	CT		IL	MD			VT

a) California's, the District of Columbia's, and Illinois' bills state additional acceptable documents for proving identity will be specified in regulations. The District of Columbia's bill states proof of identity will be defined by rule; those rules in general specify the types of documents listed in the table. Connecticut lists a passport, consular identification document, or consular report of birth as primary proof of identity and others, including a baptismal certificate, as secondary. Connecticut requires two forms of primary proof of identity or one form of primary proof and one form of secondary proof. Nevada requires an applicant provide two types of proof of identity. It also allows as proof a driver's license issued by another state. Nevada's Department of Motor Vehicles and Vermont's Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner may define additional types of acceptable documentation; Oregon's Department of Transportation also would have defined acceptable documentation.

b) The District of Columbia's bill states proof of residency will be defined by rule; those rules specify documents such as those listed. California's bill states additional types of acceptable documents will be specified in regulation. Colorado specifies the income tax return must contain a federal taxpayer ID number, and it requires both an affidavit and a tax return. Colorado also specifies residency standards that meet REAL ID Act requirements and that the applicant must affirm the applicant has or will apply for lawful residency status when eligible. Connecticut's list of proof of residency documents also includes a Medicaid or Medicare statement, a Social Security benefits statement, postmarked mail, and an official school record showing enrollment. Illinois' bill states a list of acceptable residency documents is to be established in rules and regulations. Nevada requires an applicant provide two types of proof of residency; its Department of Motor Vehicles may approve additional types of documents. Oregon's Department of Transportation could have and Vermont's Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner may define additional types of acceptable documentation. Vermont's list of other acceptable documentation includes mail, vehicle title or registration, W-2 or similar tax document, and a document from an educational institution.

c) California's bill states the card may not be used as proof of eligibility for employment or voter registration. The bill also makes it a violation of law to discriminate against an individual who holds this type of card. Oregon also would have allowed its driver card to identify the person as an anatomical donor, emancipated minor, or veteran; to identify the person for purposes of civil action judgments, liens, and support payments; and to aid a law enforcement agency in identifying a missing person.

Opponents and proponents of the new laws have made various points on their desirability:

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads would be safer because those driving would have to pass written and driving tests. • Databases containing information about everyone who drives could be important law enforcement tools. • Such documents would allow these drivers to get vehicle insurance. • Such licenses may be made available also to those who do not wish to share the information required to get a license that complies with federal standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving is a privilege that should be extended only to those here legally. • Documents from other countries provided for proof of identity are difficult to verify. • Driving privileges may attract illegal immigrants to a state in which such a license is offered. • A distinguishable license for undocumented immigrants may encourage profiling and discrimination.

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