

GREEN LIGHT NY: Driving Together



REAL ID Act

The REAL ID Act was passed by Congress in 2005 and is scheduled to be fully implemented by October 2020. The Act establishes minimum security standards for state-issued driver licenses, permits and ID cards in order for the cards to be used for any federal purposes, including for use with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to board a plane. However, nothing in the Act prevents states from creating a multi-tiered system, which can include offering cards to be used for both federal and state purposes and cards that can only be used for state purposes if they do not meet the Act's stringent requirements.

Of the 12 States and Washington DC and Puerto Rico that currently have access to licenses for undocumented immigrants, three are also REAL ID compliant: **Vermont, Connecticut and Washington, D.C.**

New York State & REAL ID compliance

In fall 2017, the New York State DMV released its plan to be [REAL ID compliant](#). The agency will now offer three separate options for New Yorkers in need of a driver's license in New York. These include: an Enhanced License (which currently exists), a REAL ID License (new) that can be used for federal and state purposes, and a **Standard License** (new) not for federal purposes.

While REAL ID and Enhanced licenses will require an office visit to prove one's identity, NY State residency and lawful presence in the U.S. and social security status and will have a star displayed on the document, a Standard License will not require an office visit to replace or renew and has "NOT FOR FEDERAL PURPOSES" displayed on the document if issued after October 30, 2017.



Green Light & REAL ID

This recent addition of a third tier of license, the Standard License, which will already be clearly marked as not for federal purposes, **provides the perfect opportunity for New York to pass the Green Light legislation S1747**. This will ensure immigrant drivers can be properly licensed, informed of traffic laws, pass a driving test, and operate a registered, inspected and insured vehicle. Allowing access to licenses to immigrant New Yorkers will also improve trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. With valid, legal identification, witnesses and victims of crimes will more readily report and cooperate with police. Police will be able to verify the identity of motorists and review their traffic records, allowing police to fulfill their duties more efficiently and effectively.

Green Light legislation simply makes the third tier, the "Standard License," accessible to New Yorkers regardless of immigration status.

For general information or to be connected with an organization leading the campaign in your region, contact:

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