For Immediate Release
Thursday, July 6, 2017

Real ID bill headed to Governor’s desk

Salem, Ore. - House lawmakers today gave final approval to legislation that would finally put Oregon in compliance with the Federal Real ID Act of 2005. Without adoption of the legislation, Oregonians were at risk of not being allowed to pass through Transportation Security Administration airport checkpoints. Lawmakers passed the bill in anticipation of a July 10, 2017 deadline requiring compliance.

“Oregon has been involved in a petty dispute with the federal government over the Real ID law for over 10 years,” said Representative Mike Nearman (R-Independence). “Without action, this dispute threatens to cause significant inconvenience to Oregonians, especially those who want to travel by air or access secure federal buildings. It is long past time for our state to come into compliance with federal ID standards.”

Oregon has been slow to comply with the Real ID Act. Lawmakers in 2009 approved SB 536, which prohibited state agencies from using state funds to comply with the provisions of the federal law. With a July 10 deadline for individuals to have Real ID compliant IDs in order to access federal buildings and a looming TSA deadline related to air travel, lawmakers finally took action that would put Oregon in compliance with the law.

SB 374 B authorizes the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles to issue drivers’ licenses that meet the minimum standards required by the federal Real ID Act. The bill also allows Oregonians to obtain standard, non-Real ID compliant licenses at a lower cost per issuance. According to a measure summary provided by legislative committee staff, Oregon “issues approximately 177,000 new drivers licenses annually, in addition to issuing renewals for about 335,000 licenses each year.”

SB 374 B passed the House on 56-1 vote. The bill now heads to the Governor’s desk to be signed into law.

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