

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

MassWorkforce Issuance

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☐ Policy

☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Development Board Chairs
Workforce Development Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: March 21, 2018

Subject: **Registry of Motor Vehicles Temporary Closure and Change to Business Processes**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners that the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), and their services, will be unavailable from 7:00 p.m., March 22 until 8:00 a.m., March 26 and to request that Local Workforce Development Boards and One-Stop Career Center Operators post the attached flyers on site and provide information to One-Stop Career Center customers visiting the Centers.

Background: The RMV is transforming its business processes and replacing its mainframe computer system with new, modern technology to deliver exceptional customer service for residents and businesses.

All offices and online systems will be closed from 7 p.m., March 22 until 8 a.m., March 26. The new RMV website will include information for applicants, including a document checklist in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese.

Starting on March 26, all Mass residents will have the option of applying for a REAL ID-compliant license or a Standard Massachusetts license; both options are available for Massachusetts IDs too. REAL ID license or ID require applying in person. A Standard license or ID can be renewed completely online in most cases.

Key differences between a REAL ID and a standard license:

- The REAL ID licenses will be marked “valid for federal identification purposes” with a gold star in the upper right-hand corner.
- REAL ID license or ID must be applied for in person, whereas a Standard license or ID can be renewed completely online in most cases.
- Starting in October 2020, only licenses/IDs that are REAL ID-compliant will be accepted as identification at airport security checkpoints. Individuals will NOT be able to board an airplane using a standard Mass. license or ID.
- A valid passport (from any country), an EAD card, a permanent resident card (green card), or any of the other documents listed to board flights or as ID to enter a federal building may be used.
- Until October 2020, a Standard license or ID can still be used to board an airplane.

Of particular importance to immigrants and refugees:

If an individual already has a current, unexpired Mass driver’s license on March 26, it will still be valid for driving until its expiration date. However, starting on March 26, renewals of a driver’s license or Mass ID, or if you are applying for the first time, proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful presence will be required. The main changes:

- A Social Security number alone will no longer make individuals eligible for a new or renewed license or Mass ID of either type.
- To qualify for either type of license, individuals must have documents showing U.S. citizenship OR that the individual has been granted at least 12 months of lawful presence. People with pending applications for asylum, TPS, approved adjustment of status, and others without a definite “duration” to their authorized stay will qualify for a 12-month license.
- All licenses will expire on the same day as lawful presence expires, but no license can be issued for less than two months, or for more than 5 years.
- Those that qualify for a limited-term license (authorized stay of less than 5 years), need to apply in person.

If individuals have questions regarding lawful presence requirements, or have other questions, contact Michele Ellicks, RMV Community Outreach Coordinator, at Michele.Ellicks@state.ma.us.

U.S. citizens can prove lawful presence with a U.S. passport or passport card, a certified copy of a U.S. birth certificate, a Certificate of Citizenship, a Certificate of Naturalization, or a Consular Record of Birth Abroad.

If not a U.S. citizen, here are the acceptable documents used to prove lawful presence:

- Foreign passport with valid U.S. visa affixed and I-94 stamp
- Employment Authorization Card (work permit) (Form I-766 or I-688B)
- Permanent Resident Card (green card) (Form I-551)

The RMV recommends that everyone start their application or renewal process online at mass.gov/rmv to determine what documents they will need. REAL ID credential requests require a visit to the RMV.

How is lawful presence determined?

The RMV will be using the SAVE system to verify lawful presence. This is the same system that MassHealth uses to verify a person's eligibility for healthcare benefits. The SAVE system electronically checks the USCIS database for immigration records based on the information (such as document numbers) provided. It does not store the information.

Lastly, new rules for registering a vehicle in Massachusetts:

Contrary to concerns circulating on social media, individuals DO NOT need to prove lawful presence to register a vehicle in Massachusetts if they have a Social Security number or a valid driver's license from any state. Under the new regulations, registration can be completed with a Social Security number alone, OR with other evidence of lawful presence, OR with a valid driver's license from any state.

Action

Requested: Please share with staff, partners and customers as appropriate. Please post both attachments within your Career Centers.

Attachments: A – MA RMV Temporary Closure Flyer

B – MA RMV Lawful Presence / New Document Requirements