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REAL ID Implementation Update Taxation and Revenue Department

- During the 2016 session, House Bill (HB) 99 (Chapter 79), was enacted to make New Mexico compliant with the requirements of the federal REAL ID Act of 2005. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) explains that REAL ID is a coordinated effort by the states and the federal government to improve the reliability and accuracy of state issued identification documents. REAL ID establishes mandatory standards governing state issuance of driver's licenses and identification cards.
- Beginning January 22, 2018, passengers with a driver's license issued by a state not compliant with the REAL ID Act (and has not been granted an extension) will need to show an alternative form of acceptable identification for domestic air travel. Passengers with driver's licenses issued by a state compliant with REAL ID (or a state that has been issued an extension) will be able to use their driver's licenses or identification cards.
- New Mexico was granted a REAL ID extension after enacting HB 99, but is required to be compliant by Oct. 1 2020 when every air traveler will need a REAL ID-compliant license, or another acceptable form of identification, for domestic air travel.
- To accomplish REAL ID compliance HB99:
 - Creates the two tiers of licenses and ID cards to be issued by the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) of the Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD). One tier is established to meet federal requirements and to be accepted by federal agencies for official purposes pursuant to the REAL ID Act of 2005. The other tier is established for those not eligible for REAL ID licenses and ID cards or who choose to opt for non-REAL ID compliant driving or identification credentials.

- Established that REAL ID compliant license or ID applicant must provide documentation required by the federal government of the applicant's identity, date of birth, social security number, if applicable, address of current residence, and lawful status.
- Established that an applicant who seeks a non-compliant license or ID must submit a social security number or individual tax identification number, a form of identification from the applicant's country of origin which TRD has a reliable method of verifying the authenticity of, a valid NM license or ID, or another document authorized by the TRD secretary.
- TRD had to establish and begin to issue, to qualified applicants, REAL ID compliant licenses and IDs within six months of the effective date of the legislation to replace these licenses and IDs with identical expiration dates at no cost if an individual chooses to replace their credential before it expires. For non-compliant licenses and IDs, the secretary of TRD shall adopt regulations providing for the proration of a refund or credit towards a new credential for the remaining period that a person's license or ID would have been valid.