



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
HANK FENTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PAUL R. LEPAGE

**LD 306: "An Act To Require State Compliance with Federal
REAL ID Guidelines"**

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION
7 March 2017

I write to you about an issue that will have dire consequences for the State of Maine unless immediate action is taken by the Legislature. The Governor has grave concerns over Maine's noncompliance with the Real ID Act of 2005.

The provisions of this federal law generally require enhancements to state issued identification such as driver's licenses. Starting on January 22, 2018, if Maine is still out of compliance with this federal law, Mainers will not be able to use Maine driver's licenses to board commercial flights.

While this deadline is still looming, Mainers are already being denied access to federal installations. This situation is problematic for obvious reasons. Our veterans are not being allowed to access clinics located on the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and thus cannot get the care they need. Our truck drivers are being turned away from facilities owned and operated by the Department of Defense. State Fire Marshal deputies are not allowed to enter the National Fire Academy without passports. I anticipate that issues such as these will get much worse.

The Governor understands that there are some who are not in favor of Real ID but he believes that a core mission of government should be facilitating transportation and commerce. We should make sure that our citizens are not at a disadvantage when it comes to bringing goods to market or when they want to travel by air. Mainers will suffer if the Legislature delays passing a bill to come into compliance.

In the absence of a reasonable alternative or some amendment to the Real ID Act by Congress, the Governor thinks the Legislature owes it to the Maine people to pass Real ID. For this reason, I strongly urge you to support LD 306, "An Act To Require State compliance with Federal REAL ID Guidelines."