Enhanced driver's license and state identification card

An enhanced license or ID is accepted as valid proof of identity and citizenship when you return to the United States from a land or sea trip to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean. The enhanced license or ID card is also accepted as a REAL ID-compliant document when traveling domestically by plane. (A U.S. passport is required for international air travel.)

You are eligible for an enhanced license or ID if you:

- Are a U.S. citizen and a Michigan resident
- (For driver's licenses only) Have no violations, suspensions, revocations or denials on your driving record that would prevent you from legally operating a motor vehicle.

Please note: When applying for an enhanced driver's license or state ID, your first and last name, and date of birth on your identity and citizenship documents, should match. If your legal name is different from what is shown on your citizenship document, you must present lawful proof of the name change, such as an original marriage license, divorce decree or court order. Multiple documents may be required if your name has changed more than once.

To apply:
1. Visit any Secretary of State office. Make sure you have the proper documentation. You will need to present proof of:
   a. A valid Social Security number (for example, a Social Security card).
   b. U.S. citizenship (for example, a certified birth certificate with a raised seal issued by a U.S. or U.S. territory government office, a certificate of citizenship or naturalization, a report of foreign birth abroad, or a valid U.S. passport.
   c. Identity (for example, a Michigan license or ID)
   d. Residency (for example, a Michigan license or ID card)

   More information is available at Michigan.gov/SOS.
2. If you wear glasses or contacts for driving, be sure to bring them. You will need to pass a vision test if your driver's license needs to be renewed. A clerk will take your photograph.
3. Pay the enhanced license or state ID card fee.

You may apply for an enhanced license or state ID at any time. The card is valid for up to four years. Allow up to 30 days to process your application and issue your new license or ID.

New rules in 2020

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, Michigan residents must show a REAL ID-compliant document when flying domestically or when entering certain federal facilities, military bases and nuclear power plants. The federal REAL ID standards set document and security protocols for the production of driver's licenses and ID cards, including the use of features to prevent illegal copying or altering. Your enhanced license or ID card meets these criteria and is printed with a REAL ID star. Enhanced cards without a star will be printed with one the next time they are renewed or replaced. For a list of other REAL ID-compliant documents, visit the Transportation Security Administration website at tsa.gov.

At the U.S. border by land or sea

When you return to the United States from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean at a land or sea port, border security agents will verify your identity by scanning either the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology embedded in your enhanced driver's license or ID card, or the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) printed on the back.

Similar technology also is found in U.S. passports and passport cards.

RFID equipment used at the border crossing will scan the card's chip from several feet away. The chip contains a unique number that will be referenced against a secure database within the Department of Homeland Security to verify your identity. No personal information is kept on the chip.

The back of the card also features a 2-D bar code that contains information found on the front of the card.

Keep your card in its durable, protective sleeve when you are not using it to prevent any unauthorized access.

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/SOS.
Where to apply

Book an appointment

Renewing, replacing or correcting information

All Secretary of State offices offer the enhanced driver’s license and state identification card. Make an appointment at any of our 131 branches by visiting Michigan.gov/SOSAppointments.

Connect with your Secretary of State

Need to renew your standard driver’s license or state ID card? Order a replacement vehicle title for one that is lost? For transactions such as these, it’s never been easier than with today’s online Secretary of State.

Most transactions can be completed at ExpressSOS.com. Going online allows you to submit a change of address; renew your vehicle, watercraft or snowmobile; check for the availability of a vanity plate; order a new plate; request a duplicate driver’s license or state ID card; join the Organ Donor Registry; replace tabs that have been lost and much more. Before you visit a branch office, check ExpressSOS.com to see if your transaction can be completed with the click of a mouse.

When you need to visit a Secretary of State office, consider making an appointment first. All branch offices offer this feature. When you make an appointment, you select the time, day and location. Make your appointment at Michigan.gov/SOSAppointments.

You may renew your enhanced card at any office or by mail if eligible. Changes of address also may be completed by mail or at any branch office.

Your card will remain valid until your new card arrives in the mail.

If your enhanced card is lost or stolen, you may request a replacement at any branch office. You will need to present identification to verify your identity. Lost or stolen cards are immediately canceled and cannot be used for border-crossing purposes.

Contact the Department of State Information Center toll free at 888-SOS-MICH (767-6424) if you haven’t received your new card within 30 days of your request.

For more information about Michigan’s enhanced license and state ID card, go to Michigan.gov/SOS.

Information on federal travel requirements is at DHS.gov or tsa.gov

Secretary of State
Jocelyn Benson
Michigan.gov/SOS

By land or sea, use enhanced ID

Number of copies: 25,000; Total cost: $2,066.55; Cost per copy: $0.08
SOS-435 (Rev. 09/2019)