



Identifying Safeguards

As a result of a new law that took effect last Friday, Missouri has joined 32 other states in instituting an even-more resilient shield to protect our citizens from identity theft and on-soil terrorist attacks. Senate Bill 1233, which was passed in 2004, changes regulations for obtaining or renewing a Missouri learner's permit, drivers' license or non-driver's license.

Under the new "Show Me Proof" program, to obtain one state identification, you must show proof of "lawful presence" (the rightful legal claim to be present in the United States), proof of identity and proof of residency.

To show proof of lawful presence, a U.S. citizen just needs to show one of the following: a birth certificate issued by the state or local government with an embossed seal, a valid or expired U.S. passport, a Certificate of Citizenship, a Certificated of Naturalization, or a certificate of Birth Abroad. This is only a one-time requirement for both new licenses and renewals.

A social security card or Medicare card can be used to show proof of identity. Several documents, such as a recent utility bill, property tax receipt, bank statement or voter ID card, can be used to substantiate residency. As is already a requirement, if a name-change has taken place, a marriage license, divorce decree, social security card or Medicaid card is required.

These extra precautions are not meant to create headaches or waste time; they were established with the best interests of Missouri citizens in mind. State-issued IDs are staples in our daily lives, as they give us access to driving, banking, flying, voting and other activities that allow us to move freely through our lives, secure in the knowledge that our identities are being protected from thieves and terrorists.

The "Show Me Proof" requirements will also stiffen the lax regulations that increase the threat of America's fastest growing crime—identity theft. More than 635,000 Americans fell victim to identity theft or fraud last year.

Most importantly, the new law will make Missouri safer by decreasing the chances of illegal aliens getting IDs and preventing terrorists from discreetly blending in with the very society they have set out to devastate. We cannot afford to allow terrorists and undocumented aliens with anti-American views to get their hands on valid licenses.

For more information about the new identification requirements, visit www.dor.mo.gov/mvdl/drivers/idrequirements.htm or call (573) 751-2730.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

Thank you for your time.

Senator Jason Crowell represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties in the Missouri Senate.