



Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4

Issue 1: State to State Verification System (S2S)

Project and TBL

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

REAL ID Compliance

- ▶ States are required to verify a REAL ID card with the state of issuance [6 CFR §37.13(b)(5)] and must check with other states prior to issuing a REAL ID card in order to determine whether the applicant currently holds a regular driver's license or REAL ID card of any type [6 CFR §37.29].
- ▶ States are required to use electronic verification systems if available [6 CFR §37.13(b)].

S2S Overview

- ▶ What is it?
 - ▶ S2S is a secure data-exchange system that connects all state DMVs.
 - ▶ Allows CA to verify if an applicant already has a DL/ID in another state.
 - ▶ Automatically cancels out-of-state credentials when CA issues a new license (and vice versa).
- ▶ Who administers it?
 - ▶ Administered by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA).
 - ▶ AAMVA is a non-profit association that runs technology systems on behalf of DMVs (they are the system operator, but data belongs to the states).
 - ▶ Other AAMVA systems: CDLIS, CSTIMS, NMVTIS, PDPS, SAVE, USPVS, etc.
- ▶ Why does it matter?
 - ▶ Closes Security Gaps – Helps prevent people from holding multiple credentials across states.
 - ▶ Stops Fraud & Identity Theft – Duplicate credentials can be misused for financial fraud, criminal activity, or to obscure driving records.
 - ▶ Protects Public Safety – Ensures driver history (suspensions, DUIs, violations) follow the individual, no matter the state.
- ▶ Who is participating?
 - ▶ 45 jurisdictions already participating
 - ▶ 6 states planning to join/implement
 - ▶ California will be last state to join
 - 2025/26 BBJ approved funding for California's S2S implementation efforts.
 - TBL for participation required.

How it Works

- ▶ **How It Works in Practice:** To comply, states must check all license and ID records, because someone could:
 - ▶ Hold a REAL ID in one state and a non-REAL ID license in another.
 - ▶ Switch back and forth (REAL ID ↔ Standard License/ID).
- ▶ To reconcile this, states must submit all DL/ID records, not just Real IDs.
- ▶ S2S allows states to send inquiries for a specific customer who has applied for a DL/ID in their state to identify if they have a record out of state.
- ▶ If they do, the system allows for the transfer of the record from the old state to the new state of residency.

What S2S Does (and Doesn't Do)

▶ Does:

- ▶ Confirm if an applicant already has a DL/ID in another state
- ▶ Cancels duplicates automatically
- ▶ Exchanges driver history records securely in real-time

▶ Does NOT:

- ▶ Allow bulk or broad searches (every query must be tied to a specific person)
- ▶ Share addresses in core dataset
- ▶ Put federal agencies in control – system is administered by AAMVA and limited to state DMVs

Privacy & Security Guardrails

- ▶ Default Protections (including but not limited to:
 - ▶ Every query requires name and data of birth (no placeholders allowed).
 - ▶ Federal access only through subpoenas.
 - ▶ Strict limits: Only authorized for DL/ID operations and fraud prevention.
 - ▶ Data encryption
 - ▶ Audit functions
- ▶ Additional Negotiated Protections:
 - ▶ AAMVA must notify CA if non-participants request data.

Impact if Not Compliant

- ▶ **Real IDs at Risk:** Federal recognition could lapse for ~22 M Californians with a Real ID.
- ▶ **Air Travel Impact:** Passports or other federal IDs needed at TSA checkpoints.
- ▶ **Other Access Limits:** Federal sites and military bases could deny entry without compliant Real ID.

Budget and Statutory Authority Needed

▶ Budget Requests

- ▶ 2025/26 - Total: \$10M (approved)
 - ▶ \$2.1M Personnel: 11 IT staff (developers, architect, analyst, tester, cloud engineer, security, manager).
 - ▶ \$7.9M Operating: System integrator, middleware, project management, equipment, etc.
- ▶ 2026/27 - Total: \$56M (2-Years) (pending)
 - ▶ \$26.6 Personnel (Continuing staff + additional workload)
 - ▶ \$29.4M Operating: System integrator, middleware, project management, equipment.

▶ Statutory Authority:

- ▶ Budget trailer bill needed to amend Vehicle Code to authorize data sharing with AAMVA.
- ▶ Limits sharing for the purposes of verifying and exchanging driver license, identification card, and driver history records with participating jurisdictions.