



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Administration

SHELDON FISHER, COMMISSIONER

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April 11, 2017

The Honorable Anna MacKinnon, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Subcommittee
Alaska Capitol Building, Room 516
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Senate Finance Committee on SB 34 "Driver's License & ID Cards & REAL ID Act." We have provided responses to follow up questions below.

1. What is currently required by REAL ID that we are not doing?

Response: Currently, when an applicant presents a source document such as a birth certificate as proof of identity, DMV accepts that document at face value. The federal REAL ID Act requires DMV to verify the authenticity of that source documents by confirming the information with an existing database, such as the national Bureau of Vital Statistics data base for birth certificates. Additionally, DMV will be required to take an applicant's photo at the beginning of the process as well as the end, to protect against fraud.

2. Currently, when a person submits documents to get a driver's license, what is stored?

Response: Federal and state law requires DMV to scan and store copies of the application with social security number, and source documentation such as a birth certificate. DMV does not scan or store in any form a copy of a person's social security card, or proof of residency such as a utility bill. Digital copies are stored until new documents are presented and are used for customer service such as online renewals and issuing of duplicates when someone loses their ID/D.

3. How does DMV protect data?

Response:

- All central DMV databases are stored on state-of-the-art DMV servers located in ETS-managed datacenters in Anchorage and Juneau
- Physical access to datacenters is strictly controlled and monitored
- Data access to customer records containing Personally Identifiable Information (PII) is logged, restricted to the minimal access level required and monitored for all applications
- All employees and business partners are subject to background checks prior to hire
- Access to the in-state image verification system is strictly limited
- Public-facing online services and web pages containing customer-specific information use encrypted data transportation protocols and caching of information is disabled (i.e. close the web page, the data is wiped from memory).

4. Who has access to the data?

Response: AS 28.10.505 sets forth confidentiality requirements for DMV data. Exemptions are made for information needed by law enforcement entities to conduct investigations, information related to vehicle recalls and safety, information related to insurance investigations, information provided to business entities to verify information provided to them, information used in connection with criminal, civil, administrative, or arbitration proceedings, information necessary to comply with commercial driver's licensing, and information related to impounded vehicles may now not be disclosable.

5. Where is the federal requirement that Alaska use a multi-state verification system?

Response: PL 109-13 Division B (REAL ID Act of 2005) requires states to work together to ensure access of data to verify identity. The Act does not specify how this is done. CFR Part 37 further addresses the issue of multi-state verification systems. DHS has stipulated the S2S system developed by the states through AAMVA will meet the requirements of the Act and corresponding regulations.

6. What is AAMVA, SPEXS, and S2S?

Response: The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization developing model programs in motor vehicle administration, law enforcement and highway safety. The association also serves as an information clearinghouse in these areas, and acts as the international spokesman for these interests.

Founded in 1933, AAMVA represents the state and provincial officials in the United States and Canada who administer and enforce motor vehicle laws. AAMVA's programs encourage uniformity and reciprocity among the states and provinces. The association also serves as a liaison with other levels of government and the private sector. Its development and research activities provide guidelines for more effective public service. AAMVA's membership includes associations, organizations and businesses that share an interest in the association's goals.

AAMVA helps facilitate communication and workflow between states in regards to licenses as well as law enforcement.

DMV currently utilizes AAMVA's SPEXS/CDLIS verification system to comply with federal and state law requiring DMV to protect against issuing duplicate or fraudulent licenses or IDs. This system has been in place for decades. S2S is the updated version of this verification system.

S2S was developed under a grant from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) given to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MSDPS). MSDPS formed the DL/ID Verification Systems (DIVS) organization with a dozen other states to provide input and guidance to Mississippi for the development and operation of the S2S Pilot, among other things. Mississippi contracted with Clerus Solutions to help create the S2S system. The pilot program ended on 3/1/2017 and the operation of the system was turned over to AAMVA and the states that Govern AAMVA, including Alaska.

- S2S was developed by the states for the states
- States own all data that is verified through S2S
- States did not have to collect any new data from citizens to participate in S2S
- The states own and operate S2S, through their association AAMVA (since March 1, 2017)
- No federal agency has access to S2S

7. What data is submitted and how is it submitted? Who has access?

Response: The only data stored centrally by AAMVA consists of what are called "Pointer Records." These records contain the minimum amount of information necessary to identify records maintained in Jurisdiction databases (ie state DMVs) and information to indicate where the full records are stored (i.e. AAMVA records "point" to the full vehicle/person records). When Jurisdictions request or send customer information to another Jurisdiction, the AAMVA "bridge" validates that the request is coming from an authorized source and that the returned information is also being provided by an authorized organization.

This data is fully encrypted from end to end. Nobody at AAMVA or any third party can gain access to the content of customer data being exchanged between the jurisdictions. Customer records transported across the AAMVA "bridge" are not "visible" and are not stored anywhere at AAMVA. Industry best practices and monitored security procedures are applied at each level of operations. Data storage and all data exchanges are conducted over private, encrypted network connections.

AAMVA cannot provide third parties (including Federal agencies) with reports or listings of customer data because AAMVA simply does not store or have direct access to the data other than what is stored in "Pointer Records"

8. What efforts is the department doing to change the "last five digits" of the Social Security Number requirement?

Response: Alaska is a member of the new Governance Board of AAMVA for management of the S2S system. Commissioner Fisher has already drafted a letter expressing Alaska's concerns about the use of 5 digits and requesting the issue be taken up at the first meeting. We are awaiting confirmation of the point of contact for the new board and will transmit our request as soon as possible.

9. Is the data submitted to S2S the same, less, or more than the DMV data currently provided to ensure the accuracy of voter lists, as authorized in AS 15.07.195(c)(5), enacted by Senate Bill 9 last session (attached)?

Response: The Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assist states with voter registration. ERIC is the Division of Elections version of DMV's AAMVA.

Data is sent twice a month to their pointer system:

- Last 4 digits of Social Security (we provide 5 digits to S2S))
- Name
- Address
- Date of Birth
- Activity Date (not provided to S2S)
- DL Number
- If we collect it, they ask for phone number & email address (not provided to S2S)

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify information on REAL ID and our legislation.

Sincerely,



Leslie Ridle, Deputy Commissioner

cc: Darwin Peterson, Legislative Director, Governor Bill Walker



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April 11, 2017

Ms. Chrissy Nizer,
Chair
S2S Governance Committee
c/o AAMVA
4401 Wilson Blvd., Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Ms. Nizer,

As Commissioner of the Department of Administration, I oversee the State of Alaska's Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Alaska's DMV is a member of the Governance Board overseeing the S2S Verification System. I am writing to you on behalf of Alaskans concerned about the use of their social security number in the S2S Verification.

As you know, the current S2S system requires the last five digits of an applicant's social security number be uploaded to the S2S pointer file. While we understand the goal of the pointer file is to accurately identify a requested record and avoid false identifications, we have heard from many Alaskans who are concerned about their social security number being included in the pointer file. Because the S2S uses five digits versus the standard four digits, many are concerned this allows for too-easy access to information if there ever was a security breach.

Until recently, all Alaskans, who received a social security number were given the same first three numbers—574. When we send in the last five numbers of a social security number, it makes it very easy to guess an Alaskan's entire social security number if there was a security breach.

We would like to pursue the option of limiting the pointer file to fewer than five digits of the social security number, as is more commonly required for verification purposes. Alaska's representative, Marla Thompson, will be at the next governance meeting on April 27 with a formal written request for this proposed change.

Thank you for your help with this issue.

Sincerely,


Sheldon Fisher
Commissioner