Overview of States' Driver's License Requirements

January 2007

States that require a Social Security number (SSN) for a driver's license with no exceptions (2).	DC and SD.
States that require an SSN for a driver's license only of people who have been assigned one or are eligible for one (47).	AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IA, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, ME, MA, MN, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WV, WI, and WY.
	 AK, AZ, AR, CA, DE, FL, IL,* MS, NE,* NV, OH, OK and RI* require only applicants who have been assigned an SSN or who are eligible for an SSN to provide one.
	 CO, CT, IN, IA, KS, MD, MI, MN, MO, OR, TN, TX, WI and WY allow applicants without SSNs to submit an affidavit or certify that they have either never been issued an SSN or are ineligible for one.
	 ID* (also requires proof of identity), GA, HI (also requires govtissued photo ID or document deemed acceptable by the director), LA, ME, MA,* MT, NH, NJ, NY,* ND, PA, SC, VA and WA require applicants without SSNs to submit verification from the Social Security Administration that none has been assigned or a denial letter from the SSA.
	 IL (in the case of religious objections), KY (also accepts letter from SSA in the case of religious objections or an affidavit), NM, UT, and WV require or request applicants to submit an ITIN.
	 NC grants an exception to the rule for immigrants with a valid visa.

* Also requires proof of lawful presence.



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Table continued on page 2

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States that have lawful presence requirements in the law (27).	AL, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, ID, KS, KY, LA (grants temporary licenses to those in the agricultural industry, regardless of immigration status), MN, MS, MO, MT, NH, NJ, OH, OK, PA, SC, SD, TN, ¹ VA, WI, and WY.
States that have lawful presence requirements that are created by agency policy or the combination of documents required of driver's license applicants (15).	AK, DE, DC, IL, IN, IA, MA, NE (only required if no SSN), NV, NY, ND, RI (only required if no SSN), TX, VT (only required if no SSN), and WV.
States that don't have lawful presence requirements (8).	HI, ME, MD, MI, NM, OR, UT, ² and WA.
States that accept the ITIN as an alternative to the SSN (5).	IL (in the case of religious objections) KY, NM, UT, and WV.
States that accept the <i>matrícula consular</i> or other foreign ID card as a form of ID (10).	ID, IN, MI (accepted on case-by-case basis), NE, NM, OR (must be approved by DMV), TX, UT, WA, and WI.
States that require that the driver's license expire with an immigrant's visa (29).	AL, AZ, CA, CO, DC, GA, FL, IA, KY, LA, MN, MO, MT, NJ, NV, NY, NC, OH, OK, PA, SC, SD, TN, UT, VT, VA, WV, WI, and WY.

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¹ As of July 1, 2004, U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, refugees and asylees receive a DL and all other non–U.S. citizens receive a "certificate for driving." However, on Feb. 24, 2006, Gov. Phil Bredesen announced that the state will suspend further issuance of certificates to people who cannot prove that they are lawfully in the U.S. It is unclear if and when this program will be reinstated.

² As of March 8, 2005, applicants without a Social Security number will receive a "driving privilege card."