



**Governor Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut**



FACT SHEET
2024 Legislative Session

**HOUSE BILL 5057
AN ACT STANDARDIZING DRIVE-ONLY LICENSES**

The Problem

Connecticut was proudly one of the first states to offer drivers' licenses to undocumented immigrants in 2013. That law made all residents of the state safer and enabled equitable access to transportation, a critical component of daily life and opportunity. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia now offer driving privileges to residents regardless of immigration status.¹ Only two of those states, Connecticut and Delaware, maintain visual differences in the licenses provided to undocumented people.

As some states work to target undocumented people, this distinction has unintentionally made Connecticut residents with varying immigration statuses vulnerable in hostile states.

Governor Lamont's Solution

Unifying the drive-only license type with other non-REAL ID licenses will match the practice in seventeen other states and the District of Columbia that offer licenses to residents unable to demonstrate immigration status. The unification includes extending the licensing period from three years to six or eight years, and the bill will eliminate the three visual signifiers of drive-only on the physical license. Starting January 1, 2025, any resident renewing a drive-only license will receive a license that is physically indistinguishable from another non-REAL ID license.

As with all non-REAL ID licenses, the updated license will maintain a clear statement that they are "not for federal identification." These licenses will not be able to be used to fly domestically starting in May of 2025.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will still track internally whether an applicant presented documentation sufficient to prove citizenship when determining whether to offer automated voter registration to applicants. Multiple controls are present in the DMV and the Secretary of the State's electronic systems to ensure that, like other noncitizens, those applying for drive-only licenses are not automatically registered to vote.

¹ <https://www.ncsl.org/immigration/states-offering-drivers-licenses-to-immigrants>

Contacts:

Governor's Office: Matthew Brokman, 860-951-9619 or matthew.brokman@ct.gov
Office of Policy and Management: Susan Sherman, 860-416-2008 or susan.b.sherman@ct.gov
State Capitol, Room 406

Once the law is fully implemented, Connecticut will be removed from other states' lists of states that have a separate physical class of license for undocumented residents.²

² <https://www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/visiting-florida-faqs/sb1718/>. Only Connecticut and Delaware are currently included on this list.