

Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 17-05
2017 Legislation – Voter Identification

DATE: June 14, 2017

FROM: Melissa Spiegel, Interim Director, MVD

TO: All Driver and Identification Services (DIS) staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurers' staff that issue driver's licenses.

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains legislation enacted during the 2017 legislative session regarding voter identification.

SUMMARY

House File 516 added new requirements regarding elections, including adding a new requirement for voters to show certain identification in order to vote. **The legislation is effective July 1, 2017.**

LINK TO LEGISLATION

2017 Iowa Acts, House File 516:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/HF516.pdf>

CURRENT

Under current law, individuals are not required to show identification in order to be able to vote.

NEW

In future elections, an individual will be required to show certain forms of identification in order to be able to vote. The legislation requires the DOT to provide a file of all individuals with a driver's license or nonoperator's identification card to the Secretary of State (SOS). The SOS will then issue a voter identification card to all registered voters who do not appear on the DOT file.

BUSINESS IMPACT

The legislation does not directly impact the way that DIS functions, but it is important to understand what this legislation does and how it impacts our customers.

RESULT

This legislation does not implement any new procedures for DIS staff. However, since customers may have questions about this new law, we wanted you to be aware of the changes.

HELPFUL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers provide additional information that will be helpful to you and to customers.

IS THE DOT REQUIRED TO ISSUE THE NEW VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD?

No, the DOT has no role in issuing the voter identification card. That card will be issued by SOS.

WHAT WILL THE VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY THE SOS LOOK LIKE?

The SOS is still working on the design of the card, but we know that the card will contain the voter's name, a unique identifying number assigned by the SOS, and a line for the voter's signature.

WHAT FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED IN ORDER TO VOTE?

According to the legislation, an individual may display a valid driver's license, nonoperator's identification card, U.S. passport, U.S. military or veterans identification card or voter identification card. An individual who does not have any of the acceptable forms of identification may be able to vote if another voter attests to their identity or by using a provisional process as provided in the legislation.