



Under bill, Ariz. would opt out of national ID card

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The Arizona Republic

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The state Senate is poised to approve a bill to bar Arizona from participating in a federal program that would create a standardized national identification card.

The move comes as the federal Real ID Act is getting strong resistance from states nationwide. Earlier this week, the Washington state Senate voted to delay participation in the program pending more-specific guidelines, and last week, the federal Homeland Security Department announced it would delay its effective date for two years, to the end of 2009.

In Arizona, Senate Bill 1152 would prevent the state from taking part in the national standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.

It passed on an uncontested voice vote Wednesday; a formal vote is scheduled for today.

State Sen. Karen Johnson, the bill's sponsor, said the two-year delay does nothing to dim her opposition.

"I am absolutely against a national ID," said Johnson, R-Mesa. "If we do this, we'll have a nationwide databank that would be a gold mine for ID theft."

Plus, Johnson said, she is troubled that such a national repository could be privatized, further imperiling privacy rights.

State Sen. Jorge Garcia, D-Tucson, questioned how Arizonans would be able to board aircraft for national travel if the state opted out of the program. Johnson said his concerns are premature because guidelines are still being drafted for the federal program.

Other states and civil rights groups have objected to the law on a variety of fronts, including violation of state's rights to fears of privacy invasion and the cost to create and carry out a new driver's license.

"The ACLU and myself probably are not together very much," but on this issue, they have found common ground, she said.

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Good Lord, how can Karen Johnson be that blind so as not to see that we already have several forms of National ID? What we really need is an officially sanctioned form of ID that will keep the illegals out and identify true Americans as what they are – Americans.

It is inconceivable to me that Johnson can't understand that anyone with 80 bucks can go online and find out almost anything about anybody. This ill-concieved idea that having a National ID system will promote ID theft is simply backwards. I believe the opposite will happen. The smart American people will be able to prove their identity, while the thieves will not. How is this a bad idea?

We desperately need some kind of ID system like this, how else do you plan on telling who should be here and who should be shipped back to where they came from?

After all, we did this to ourselves (by gross negligence and idiocy on the part of those responsible for immigration) and now we need to pay a small price to make sure Americans have their share of America.(**Old Dave (Dave3024)**, March 8, 2007 10:34PM)

I remember a time over 2 decades ago when the feds threaten to withhold highway dollars if states did not raise the drinking age to 21. Who's to say that they wont do that again with the type of ID required to fly. I see this as another unfunded mandate, so instead of forcing states to cover the cost this program, why don't they just lower the cost for a passport(s97 new/s67 renewal). Since it is a type of national ID and with the new requirements to cross the border it only logical that the passport would be the perfect national ID. The only information that I provided when I got my first passport was my birth certificate and current address. The only information on the passport is passport #, Name, DOB, Place of Birth, issue and expiration date. It proves who I am and that I'm an American Citizen As far as I know the only information that has been collected since then is my international travel, other than Mexico and Canada.

I see it this way, the passport is profit center for the Feds and they don't want to lose it and it gives them a scapegoat if an ID issued by the states is found to be flaw if something happens in the future.

Instead of the giving into extortion and it will come, why doesn't our state senate lobby our Congressional Delegation to enter a bill that will make the passport the "Real ID". (**Rick5950**, March 8, 2007 09:15PM)

Just put a bar scan across my...(Kathleen4573, March 8, 2007 04:02PM)

I wish there was a way that a National ID card could fix all of our problems, but it won't. It'll just make more.

Having all of our information in one database is too much of a hassle, for other reasons besides being a 'goldmine' of information for an identity thief. If you have multiple people with the same name, how can we know that they won't be confused for each other? We've seen instances where people have had their lives ruined because someone with the same name as them filed bankruptcy, or committed a crime in the SAME CITY. Imagine this on a national level! Its identity theft on a whole different plane than what we're accustomed to thinking about.

Then there's the issue about how the public will handle this new ID card. How many of you have moved and notified the DMV within 10 days of moving to get a new license with your current address? How many of you have moved between states and taken as long as you could get away with to get a new ID and register your car because you can't afford or don't want to, or can't find the time to pay the registration fee right away? How many of you have gone to get a new license when your picture started to wear or when the laminate started to peel? If people aren't be responsible with a state issued ID then a National ID won't help, anyway.

If the ID is used to keep track of American citizens, then what about the people with Green Cards, and Student Visas, and work Visas and other non-citizens? Will they be eligible for the new National ID? If not, then this will be the new way for people to live 'under the radar'. These documents are already being forged, anyway. If they will be eligible, then imagine the costs of revamping the Immigration department to implement stricter guidelines for people entering the country. If you thought the wait was long before, brace yourselves for the international backlash.

These are only a few things that I wonder about. The whole concept sounds great, but when you dig under the surface, you realize this can create more problems than solutions.
(Cj4528, March 8, 2007 03:57PM)

I like Lori8119's stand on natural disasters and Katrina! Way to stand up for what you believe in. I, too, am against disasters. Good for you. I'm also against stealing, murder and the designated hitter.

Now, if we can just get the federal government to stop making hurricanes in their off-shore secret weather lab, we'll be all set!(Jeff244, March 8, 2007 03:41PM)

What will they come up with next? Soon we will all have to have location and id chip implants...
(DENNIS7369, March 8, 2007 03:26PM)

Someday in the not too distant future the illegals will outnumber everyone in Arizona and drug lords will run Arizona just like they run Mexico today. Next they will get rid of the very organization that protected them, the ALCU. Life here will be no different than in Mexico. Then where will they go?

People breaking the law to get here are criminals. Criminals break laws; so no laws are sacred to them.

No individual has the right to decide which laws they will follow and which ones they won't.

Where does it all end.

(Bill5193, March 8, 2007 03:16PM)

I am the Chaplain for the Homeless in Phoenix and deal with obtaining ID's for homeless and poor citizens every day. One of the requirements to get an Arizona ID is a certified birth certificate. Most states, including Arizona, now require a state issued ID or drivers' license to issue a birth certificate. Those states which accept alternative identification have very restricted lists. Arizona now requires that a state issued ID be presented to get a document notarized, like a birth certificate application. Just this morning I spoke to the vital records office for the State of New Jersey regarding a man, born in New Jersey, who moved from Florida to Arizona with a valid Florida ID, only to discover that he needed his birth certificate to get an Arizona ID. New Jersey will not mail his birth certificate to him because he's in Arizona and his ID is from Florida, therefore in their opinion, not valid. I deal with similar situations every day, 1689 ID's and 820 birth certificates, in 2006. These are not aliens trying to sneak in. They are US citizens, victims of accident, theft, poverty, mental illness, etc. Many are sentenced to life on the street, or denied services, even Social Security cards, by their inability to get identification. There is no uniformity between states for identification or issuance of birth certificates. The only people harmed by these policies are our citizens who are down on their luck and struggling to turn their lives around.(David66, March 8, 2007 01:06PM)

Michael1977; "This is not Germany 1944, people. This is not Moscow or East Berlin 1961 either"
Wake up, this is Northern Mexico, we are slowly becoming outnumbered, out gunned and certainly out lasted by all the illegals. I am Hispanic and have had to deal with their fake id's, fake papers, and phony stories. Why don't they take on their own corrupt government? I'll tell you why, because they would soon be inside one of their own stinking jails. Their Government won't put up with any of their "bs". No, so they come here to be mollycoddled by the liberals like the ACLU! We as a "free" society have to stand up and defend our country and its freedoms which have been hard won by the blood of our veterans.(JUAN7658, March 8, 2007 12:26PM)

Hey Mark2668 that is one hell of an idea. Why should the honest hard working American public support the criminals that broke into our country. Maybe if that happened they would figure out that America is not such a nice place to live. We could take the money that they pay and turn the tables on them and use it to help the less

fortunate Americans, i.e. the military or the elderly.(**Richard8558**, March 8, 2007 12:22PM)

wasn't this one of the recommendations of the 911 commission? the report that people are mad that bush hasn't implemented all its plans? (**John2500**, March 8, 2007 11:10AM)

to little to late wake up az(**jack3973**, March 8, 2007 10:28AM)

Hold on a minute.This is the answer to stopping elegal immigration.Identify citizens of this country with a card.Now raise sales taxes across the board 10%.Now offer a citizens discount of 10% by scanning this card.Now we have money to address illegal immigration paid for by the people who caused the problem.It's a club card like Cosco.Citizen's of this country have been abused by immigrants.Let's level the playing field with a citizen's ID whether you drive or not.Illegal immigration is an economic problem that has an economic solution.Sales tax exemption (10%) for citizens.Who is for it ?Let's dicuss it here and now.

J.Mark Saylor(**Mark2668**, March 8, 2007 10:17AM)

Anyone remember the old movies about WW2? In the "enemy" country the good guys had to "show their papers" at a moments notice. National ID ?? seems a little too familiar to me. Perhaps "homeland Security" is attempting to work on the wrong end of the problem!(**jane6938**, March 8, 2007 09:43AM)

No, not really. I just wish the federal government would do their research and maybe do some 'beta' testing prior to rolling out new projects. I'm a social worker for the elderly who had to deal with the Med Part D fiasco along with my clients. About 10% of them died before the gov't could fix the VERY obvious problems with their RX coverages. The unorganization of that AND Katrina has become expected of anything that comes from the feds. I've lost my faith in how the gov't implements new programs. Or maybe it's always been that way, and now I'm old enough and/or experienced enough to see it. The feds have too many old issues to fix before putting their hands in something new. Especially when it has the potential of even more rampant ID theft.

I also realize some people just have the need to argue with anything that gets posted on here. So get a life, Bob. (**Lori8119**, March 8, 2007 09:41AM)

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