

Electronic Driver's License Task Force

November 10, 2015

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Capitol Building

Room 213

301 S. 2nd St.

Springfield, IL 62707

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Approval of the Minutes

Chairman D'Amico called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and the members introduced themselves: Co-Chair Senator Karen McConnaughay; Representative John D'Amico; Representative Steve Andersson; Senator Steve Stadelman; Mike Mayer, Secretary of State's Office; Mike Wons, Governor's Office (proxy for Hardik Bhatt); Sgt. Joe Hutchins, Illinois State Police. Chairman D'Amico asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2015 meeting. Mike Mayer motioned for approval, the members agreed and the minutes were approved.

II. Discussion with Interest Groups

Rob Karr, President and CEO of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association (IRMA), began the discussion with a review of the impact that a mobile driver's license would have on IRMA's members. Mr. Karr spoke with Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), as well as a few IRMA members that also operate in Iowa. Their initial thoughts were that implementation of an electronic driver's license in Illinois would mostly affect retail businesses due to liquor and tobacco sales, pharmacy prescriptions and firearms purchases. They expressed security and liability concerns, along with concerns regarding the need to setup a system to verify electronic driver's licenses. Mr. Karr raised questions concerning how the vertical driver's license for individuals under 21 years of age would be addressed and who would be liable when a license is suspended, but the mobile app shows otherwise. Mr. Karr added that retailers would want some sort of hold harmless provision with new electronic driver's licenses and asked if individuals would still be required to have a hard card.

Chairwoman McConnaughay asked if Iowa had the same concerns when Mr. Karr spoke with them. Mr. Karr stated that Paul Steier from the Iowa DOT said they have not yet had discussions on those issues. Mr. Karr also offered assistance with technical specifications if needed in the future and asked that the Task Force keeps in mind the smaller companies that often cannot afford high tech options. Chairman D'Amico expressed his understanding that the program would be voluntary.

Mike Wons commented that electronic driver's licenses are in the early stages of development and it is hard to predict what the final result will be with so many technology

improvements coming. Mr. Karr stated that this is a natural revolution and the question is really how electronic driver's licenses can be accommodated. Mr. Mayer added that there would still be a need for hard cards in addition to the electronic cards. Mr. Karr asked if there is a national group looking at standards. Mr. Wons said that Iowa mentioned an AAMVA electronic working group and card design committee.

Limey Nargelenas, Manager of Governmental Relations for the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, then spoke to the concerns from law enforcement and stated that they are similar to the concerns Iowa has raised. Mr. Nargelenas said there is a concern with law enforcement officials handling a driver's phone. Currently, if a driver does something they should not be doing, the officer drops the license. Officers would not be able to simply drop a smartphone on the ground in that instance. He added that it would be problematic if a driver's phone died and the driver did not have a hard card on them. In addition to these concerns, Mr. Nargelenas raised the issue of whether the phone should be locked so that law enforcement cannot see other information on the phone. Along with this concern, what does an officer do if they see something suspicious pop up on the phone screen while they're reviewing the license information? Do they seize the phone or obtain a warrant. Additionally, in instances where law enforcement encounters a homicide victim, they look for a wallet or identification card to help identify the victim. If the identification information is on a locked phone, law enforcement officers would not be able to access that information. He also mentioned that there are areas in Illinois without cellular service and in southern Illinois, police officers do not currently have computers. Therefore, they would need significant technology upgrades in order to implement this option. Finally, Mr. Nargelenas stated the need for the purchase of new computer equipment in order to verify an individual has a valid license. He closed by explaining they are not opposed to electronic driver's licenses as they have already implemented electronic insurance cards, but they appreciated the opportunity to share their initial concerns. He thought there is a lot of potential and that law enforcement would appreciate the ability to be able to stop a car and immediately get information sent to their computer on who they are pulling over.

Chairman D'Amico asked what would happen if a driver is pulled over in the rain and whether that would damage the driver's phone. Mr. Nargelenas responded that it could damage the phone and asked who would be liable in that situation. Senator Stadelman asked what the current procedure is for electronic insurance cards. Mr. Nargelenas said that some departments have policies that officers are not to touch the phones, while some are told to take the phones and review the insurance information. Mr. Mayer mentioned that he attended an AAMVA meeting last week and heard that Denmark is also looking into this idea. They have considered technology that would allow a transfer of data from a driver's device to the officer's device.

Next, Sheriff Tom Templeton, President of the Illinois Sheriff's Association, spoke to their concerns. First, he emphasized that all law enforcement entities would have similar concerns to those raised by Mr. Nargelenas. He added that there are instances where drivers do not remain in their car and wait for the officer to approach. Officers currently carry a flashlight, pistol, pepper spray, and a note pad and there is limited space on their belt. Sheriff Templeton said things can happen quickly in these moments and when someone reaches into their coat pocket for a phone, the officer has to be prepared for them

to pull out a weapon instead. He closed by stating that the more we give officers to do, the more they have to think about in those moments.

III. Review of RFI

Amy Williams, Secretary of State's office, reviewed the Request for Information (RFI) document she drafted for the Task Force and asked for the members' feedback. She clarified that a schedule had not yet been delineated and that is something the Task Force should decide. Mr. Nargelenas asked if the RFI will recommend something like what Iowa is currently doing. Chairwoman McConnaughay clarified that the Task Force is not there yet and is only looking for feedback from vendors at this time. Ms. Williams recommended the RFI be published within a week with a deadline for vendor responses by early January 2016. She asked that members send any questions or feedback prior to the RFI being published. The Task Force members agreed to that timeline and SOS staff offered to review the responses upon receipt and send to the Task Force members prior to the next meeting.

IV. Recommendations for Discussion at Next Meeting

No further discussion.

V. Public Comment Period

There were no comments.

VI. Next Meeting Dates

The members determined the next meeting will be scheduled in late January or early February based upon the session calendar.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.