

Driver Licensing And Identification Card Issuance ACTION/ISSUE STATEMENT

POL-1

DMVJ3D

Short Description:

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAVE PROGRAM: DELAY/RE-EVALUATE AT A LATER DATE

Decision Issue:

Should DMV use the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement (SAVE) Program to verify the immigration status and/or expiration date of authorized stay indicated on the documents that customers present as proof of legal?

(Although HB 1954 and SB 1058 do not mandate use of the SAVE system, DMV believes the agency would have the discretion to use the system in order to verify information provided during the application process).

Impact and Challenges:

The SAVE system is an electronic system managed by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS, formerly INS) that provides information concerning the immigration status/lawful presence of non-citizens.

Implementation of SAVE concurrently with implementation of the requirements of HB 1954 and SB 1058 would increase the costs and manhours required.

The majority of other states which have imposed a legal presence requirement do not currently use the SAVE program.

The SAVE system is not available on Saturdays, while DMV is open half a day and experiences heavy customer traffic on Saturdays.

There are concerns that information maintained on the system is often backlogged and not up-to-date. While Philip Vasquez reported that John Hager (Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness) has stated that he believes the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) will become more efficient but that at this time, the SAVE system is not reliable. Mr. Hager indicated, however, that this statement was made over six months ago and that improvements may have been made to the system during that time. He stated that he does not know where it stands now.

Use of the SAVE system, until these issues are resolved, would likely result in unnecessary delays in processing transactions requiring proof of legal presence.

DMV and BCIS anticipate improvements to SAVE over the next couple of years. If these improvements are made, SAVE would be a viable option at that time.

DMV Recommended Decision:

DMV recommends foregoing implementation of the SAVE Program , at least until HB 1954 and SB 1058 have been implemented. This will assure that sufficient funds and manhours are available to successfully implement the legislation. Once the legislation is enacted and staff has been trained, then DMV would revisit the issue of SAVE implementation.

DMV Commissioner's Signature

Date

Panel Recommended Decision:

The panel concurs with the recommendation, with the following changes:

DMV recommends foregoing implementation use of the SAVE Program at this time given that it is not proven reliable. , ~~at least until HB 1954 and SB 1058 have been implemented. This will assure that sufficient funds and manhours are available to successfully implement the legislation.~~ Once the legislation is enacted and staff has been trained, and the system has been proven reliable, then DMV would revisit the issue of SAVE implementation.

Panel's Signature

Date

Secretary's Recommended Decision:

Secretary's Signature

Date

Governor's Recommended Decision:

Governor's Signature

Date