

Real id act

Education



Real ID Act of 2005 According to the Real ID Act of 2005, law signed by President Bush, Americans will be using federally approved ID cards “ to travel on an airplane, open a bank account, collect Social Security payments, or take advantage of nearly any government service” (McCullagh, 2005). The drivers’ licenses will take the form of national identity cards after these are re-issued, to conform to federal antiterrorist standards. These ID cards will be electronically readable. The proposal that has been given in Congress about this Act has seen much opposition. This paper intends to critically analyze the Act and discuss all pros and cons related to it.

The main advantage is security. The Department of Homeland Security gets the power to decide whether the drivers’ licenses and ID cards can be used for official purposes or not. If they are not complying with federal antiterrorist standards, the card holders will not have access to airplanes, public places, and the courthouse. This means that the security measures are on their way. Increasing incidents of terrorism these days have given rise to the need of such security so that citizens may be given full protection while they travel, work, or enjoy in the parks. Such a strict check would discourage terrorists and also illegal immigrants (Quinn, 2012). Proponents claim the new cards will not be another form of national ID cards because it is optional for a country to adopt them. They are only meant to benefit the country so that it can sort out illegal persons from its citizens. Hence, it is a matter of national security and privacy which makes the proponents of the Act state that it is much needed. We support this fact because a critical analysis makes us believe that American citizens have the right to be informed who lives around them claiming to be a citizen of the country, and that the drivers’ licenses contain correct information, and not some aliases,

<https://assignbuster.com/real-id-act/>

about the card holders.

However, the number of critics is more than proponents. Critics claim that the Real ID Act of 2005 is invasive. The issuance of the said cards will make us a surveillance society in which everybody is doubted. The incidents of identity theft will also increase since terrorists and illegal immigrants will use their criminal ways to steal identities. The Act will also increase burden on the tax payers and the immigrants, because of such a high cost being spent on the issuance of these cards. Administrative burden will increase due to expenses. Privacy will be more at stake if drivers' licenses are turned into national identity documents. State governments will become stressed out because they will have to remake all drivers' licenses, restructure its databases, re-do all documentation, create a data-sharing network requiring technical and professional staff, validate every citizen's birth certification and immigration documents, and much more. At individual level, this Act will make citizens pay higher fees for obtaining the cards.

Hence, Real ID Act will affect policy development not in a very convinced way because, although it has been passed and signed, yet its acceptance is not guaranteed. States have shown a severe revolt against this Act. A critical analysis of pros and cons shows that there is a need of further analysis of this Act so that its advantages exceed the disadvantages, making it acceptable by common people and the states.

References

McCullagh, D. (2005). FAQ: How Real ID will affect you. CNet. Retrieved February 27, 2012, from http://news.cnet.com/FAQ-How-Real-ID-will-affect-you/2100-1028_3-5697111.html
<https://assignbuster.com/real-id-act/>

Quinn, D. (2012). The Disadvantages of National ID Cards. eHow. Retrieved February 27, 2012, from http://www.ehow.com/list_6966329_disadvantages-national-id-cards.html