

States Revise Rules for Driver's Licenses

The Washington Post

November 19, 2001 Monday, Final Edition

Copyright 2001 The Washington Post



Section: A SECTION; Pg. A07

Length: 245 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: MIAMI Nov. 18

Body

Several states are changing the rules for obtaining driver's licenses, particularly for foreign nationals, as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Before the attacks, the nation's main form of identification was issued according to loosely enforced standards set by each state.

Law enforcement officials say the 19 hijackers used driver's licenses to open bank accounts and rent cars and apartments.

Now, Florida, North Carolina, Michigan and others are tightening regulations, and some are considering new licenses that would include biometric data such as fingerprints or retinal patterns.

Some also are considering linking the states' computer networks, elevating the licenses into de facto national ID cards.

Under an executive order signed last month by Gov. Jeb Bush (R), foreigners applying for Florida licenses get 30-day temporary permits while police investigate their identification.

* In Michigan, which has one of the nation's largest Arab populations, Secretary of State Candice Miller proposed a bill that would bar illegal immigrants from receiving licenses.

* Wisconsin suspended acceptance of a visa form, which foreign visitors fill out and the Immigration and Naturalization Service checks, as proof of residency.

* New Jersey stopped issuing licenses to immigrants whose visas expire within a year.

* Florida and North Carolina are closing loopholes that allowed drivers the option of refusing to be photographed for religious reasons.

Classification

States Revise Rules for Driver's Licenses

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: IMMIGRATION (91%); **DRIVERS LICENSES** (90%); **LICENSES** & PERMITS (90%); PASSPORTS & VISAS (78%); CITIZENSHIP (78%); SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACK (78%); NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS (78%); BIOMETRICS (77%); EXECUTIVE ORDERS (77%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (77%); FINGERPRINTING (77%); TERRORIST ATTACKS (73%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (73%); HIJACKING (73%); TERRORISM (73%); INVESTIGATIONS (73%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (53%)

Industry: **DRIVERS LICENSES** (90%); INTERNATIONAL TOURISM (73%); COMPUTER NETWORKS (55%)

Person: JEB BUSH (56%); CANDICE **S** MILLER (53%)

Geographic: NORTH CAROLINA, USA (92%); MICHIGAN, USA (92%); FLORIDA, USA (92%)

Load-Date: November 19, 2001

End of Document