



STATE OF GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

FACT SHEET

Georgia SecureID

Combating Illegal Immigration and Identity Theft ♦ Ensuring Greater Homeland Security

- Currently illegal immigrants in Georgia are using valid state ID's obtained through illegitimate means to obtain employment and access state-funded services. Eighty-eight percent of I.D. fraud cases investigated by the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) in 2005 involved either a non-U.S. citizen or fraudulent foreign documentation.
- Fraudulent identity documents are a threat to homeland security. At least seven of the 9/11 hijackers obtained genuine Virginia identity documents through fraud.
- Identity theft is on the rise.
- A multi-agency task force will enable the state to:
 - ✓ Ensure the integrity of a Georgia driver's license.
 - ✓ Follow the sources of fraudulent documents.
 - ✓ Crack down on forms of identity theft.
 - ✓ Keep Georgia drivers safe by preventing individuals from obtaining a license illegally.

Georgia SecureID represents a multi-agency effort to combat the use of fraudulent documents to obtain state ID's. The Georgia SecureID initiative will:

- Place DDS investigators in the 10 highest-need facilities throughout the state to crack down on the use of fraudulent documents to obtain state ID's¹. These investigators will:

¹ Statutorily, DDS is limited to 15 investigators. They currently staff 11. Expanding beyond this number will require legislation.

- ✓ Review suspicious documents (fraudulent birth certificates, out-of-state licenses/ID cards, passports, I-94 immigration documents and social security cards)
- ✓ Question individuals who produce fraudulent documents.
- ✓ Conduct arrests, issue warrants and provide court testimony in cases of DDS ID fraud.
- ✓ Conduct follow-up investigations on the sources of fraudulent documents in conjunction with law enforcement agencies.
- ✓ Provide regional investigative support to surrounding DDS Customer Service Centers.
- ✓ Provide training to center examiners on document recognition.
- Dedicate three new agents to conduct follow-up/investigations of fraud issues including identity theft, human trafficking, drug trafficking and other crimes.
- Partner with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on identifying document and benefit fraud.²
- Be funded with approximately \$1 million in the FY07 Amended or FY08 budget cycle.

Q&A

- At which DDS locations will the investigators be located?

These investigators will be located in the customer service centers of highest need, based on the number of fraud cases this last year and by geographical diversity. They will work regionally to combat ID fraud and may move locations as needed. Advertising these locations would be unwise as potential fraud perpetrators would go elsewhere to avoid detection.

- How will REAL ID impact the need for these investigators?

The federal REAL ID penalties do not go into effect until May 11, 2008. The requirements of REAL ID will likely increase the detected fraud and the subsequent need for investigations.

- Will legislation be required?

OCGA 40-16-4 limits the number of DDS investigators to 15. There are currently 10 filled DDS investigator positions (note: 2 of these 10 are starting this month). Legislation will be needed to accommodate the new positions.

- How will the investigators be trained?

There are currently 10 DDS investigators on staff who will work to train the new investigators. In addition, the new investigators will receive POST training, and federal identity theft and fraudulent document training. They will receive fraudulent document recognition training from AAMVA (American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators) and will receive “train-the-trainer training” so that they can conduct continuing training for DDS examiners.

² ICE established 10 regional document and benefit fraud task forces in April 2006, including one in Atlanta.