

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	Senate File 2187	House Committee:	PASSED 18-0 (3/18/26)
Committee:	Transportation	Senate Floor:	PASSED 42-5 (2/25/26)
Floor Manager:	Rep. Cindy Golding	House Floor:	PASSED 87-8 (2/25/26)
Date:	May 15, 2026	Senate Floor (2nd):	PASSED 38-7 (4/21/26)
Staff:	Brad Trow (1-3471)	Governor:	SIGNED (5/15/26)

Requiring Citizenship Verification When Obtaining a Driver's License

- Senate File 2187 requires the Department of Transportation to check and verify the citizenship or immigration status of anyone who seeks an Iowa driver's license or identification card issued by the DOT and cannot provide proof of citizenship or legal status. If a person does not provide proof or cannot verify their status, then DOT is prohibited from issuing them a license or ID card.
- DOT is required to use the Department of Homeland Security's SAVE program to conduct these checks.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 – NEW SECTION – Iowa Code section [321.183A]- Citizenship and immigration status verification:

The section requires the Iowa Department of Transportation to use the federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program to verify the citizenship or immigration status of a person seeking to obtain or renew a driver's license or nonoperator ID card if the person cannot provide proof of citizenship. DOT is prohibited from issuing a driver's license or nonoperator ID card if the person does not provide proof and DOT cannot verify that the person is in the United States legally.

The section defines what the SAVE program is.

Section 2 - APPLICABILITY - The amendment makes these changes go into effect on March 1, 2027 or the date when the DOT has certified that their new IT system is operational, whichever is earlier..

AMENDMENTS

H-8230, by the Committee on Transportation: The amendment makes the bill go into effect on March 1, 2027 or the date when the DOT has certified that their new IT system is operational, whichever is earlier.

H-8294, by Golding: The amendment adds several provisions to the bill. First, the amendment adds language to the provision in section 1 that prohibits the issuance of driver's license to a person cannot provide proof of citizenship. The new language would allow the DOT to issue a temporary, 3 month paper driver's license or

identification card to a person who cannot provide proof of citizenship. The card must have the phrase “Not Valid for Voting” on the face of the document.

The amendment adds language which outlines the ways a person may prove there are a citizen of the United States. These include the following, which may be in paper or digital form:

1. A birth certificate issues by a state, district, territory, or possession of the United States other than American Samoa;
2. A certificate of live birth issued by a qualified hospital, medical center, or birthing center in a state, district, territory, or possession of the United States other than American Samoa;
3. A United States passport (unless it was issued to a person born in American Samoa);
4. An identification card issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs; or
5. A naturalization certificate issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services or other document allowed under federal law.

The Department is granted the ability to accept any other document that it determines to sufficiently verify United States citizenship.

The amendment amends Iowa Code section 321.189 (2) (a) by adding that if a driver's license is issued to a person who does not verify they are a United States citizen, the license must have the words "Non-citizen" at the top of the license.

The amendment revises Iowa Code section 321.190 (1)(a), regarding the issuance of a nonoperator's identification card, that if the card is being issued to a person who does not verify they are a United States citizen, the card must have the words "Non-citizen" at the top of the card

The amendment makes these changes go into effect on March 1, 2027 or the date when the DOT has certified that their new IT system is operational, whichever is earlier..