

Enhanced driver's licenses are offered to residents of 5 states (MI, MN, NY, VT, and WA) to serve as proof of identity and U.S. Citizenship ([Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\) 2023](#)). This document is used both as a driver's license and as a replacement for a U.S. passport at a U.S. border. Enhanced driver's licenses are marked by the word "Enhanced" or have a yellow star icon in the top right corner (**Figure 1**).

Enhanced driver's licenses contain additional technology to improve the experience of crossing the border, including a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip, Machine Readable Zone, or barcode that provides a unique reference number to the RFID system, allowing the border agent to access the holder's personal identifying information ([DHS 2023](#)).

To hold an enhanced driver's license, the applicant must present a document from each category:

- Proof of legal presence: U.S. Passport, Certified U.S. birth certificate, Consular report of birth abroad issued by the U.S. State Department, or Certificate of citizenship or naturalization
- Social Security number: W-2, Social Security card, SSA or non-SSA 1099 Social Security benefits tax form, or pay stub containing name and Social Security number
- Proof of identity: U.S. passport, driver's license, or other government, military, or tribal ID
- Proof of state residency
- Name change document (if applicable)

Because these documents meet the security requirements of the **REAL-ID Act**, enhanced driver's licenses are automatically REAL-ID compliant licenses ([MI Department of State 2023](#)).



Figure 1. Examples of enhanced drivers licenses in two participating states. These licenses are marked by the word "Enhanced" and/or have a yellow star icon indicating that they meet requirements for Federal Identification.