

Establishing a Digital ID Program in Pennsylvania

Senate of Pennsylvania
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MEMORANDUM

Posted:	December 1, 2021 01:58 PM
From:	Senator Marty Flynn
To:	All Senate members
Subject:	Establishing a Digital ID Program in Pennsylvania

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation establishing a digital identification program to provide Pennsylvanians the option to access and display proof of identification on their mobile devices.

The proliferation of smartphones has led more and more people to use digital wallets for purchases and other transactions – often electing to not carry their physical wallets. Recognizing this shift, it is prudent for the Commonwealth to leverage this technology allow for secure, digital identification to be accepted as proof of identity and age within the state.

My legislation will authorize the creation of a Pennsylvania Digital ID, which may be accepted as a legal form of personal identification for use in Pennsylvania. It will direct all Commonwealth agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction to accept the Pennsylvania Digital ID as a method to prove a person's identity where a physical driver's license or state ID card is currently required. It will also direct PennDOT to create and implement an educational campaign to inform organizations, businesses, and individuals across the state that Pennsylvania Digital ID is a valid form of identification. Finally, the legislation will direct PennDOT to work with the appropriate federal agencies to ensure that the Pennsylvania Digital ID is authorized under the REAL ID Modernization Act.

With the advancement of technology, the Commonwealth has an opportunity and obligation to use technology to improve convenience and access to state services for Pennsylvanians. Please join me in supporting this legislation.