

Dates of 2012 Amendment note under section 101 of Title 23, Highways.

§ 30182. Powers and duties

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) conduct motor vehicle safety research, development, and testing programs and activities, including activities related to new and emerging technologies that impact or may impact motor vehicle safety;

(2) collect and analyze all types of motor vehicle and highway safety data and related information to determine the relationship between motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment performance characteristics and—

(A) accidents involving motor vehicles; and

(B) deaths or personal injuries resulting from those accidents.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out a program under this section, the Secretary of Transportation may—

(1) promote, support, and advance the education and training of motor vehicle safety staff of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in motor vehicle safety research programs and activities, including using program funds for planning, implementing, conducting, and presenting results of program activities, and for related expenses;

(2) obtain experimental and other motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment for research or testing;

(3)(A) use any test motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment suitable for continued use, as determined by the Secretary to assist in carrying out this chapter or any other chapter of this title; or

(B) sell or otherwise dispose of test motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment and use the resulting proceeds to carry out this chapter;

(4) award grants to States and local governments, interstate authorities, and nonprofit institutions;

(5) enter into cooperative agreements, collaborative research, or contracts with Federal agencies, interstate authorities, State and local governments, other public entities, private organizations and persons, nonprofit institutions, colleges and universities, consumer advocacy groups, corporations, partnerships, sole proprietorships, trade associations, Federal laboratories (including government-owned, government-operated laboratories and government-owned, contractor-operated laboratories), and research organizations; and

(6) in coordination with Department¹ of State, enter into cooperative agreements and collaborative research and development agreements with foreign governments.

(c) USE OF PUBLIC AGENCIES.—In carrying out this subchapter, the Secretary shall avoid duplication by using the services, research, and testing facilities of public agencies, as appropriate.

(d) FACILITIES.—The Secretary may plan, design, and construct a new facility or modify an

existing facility to conduct research, development, and testing in traffic safety, highway safety, and motor vehicle safety. An expenditure of more than \$1,500,000 for planning, design, or construction may be made only if 60 days prior notice of the planning, design, or construction is provided to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Environment and Public Works of the Senate. The notice shall include—

(1) a brief description of the facility being planned, designed, or constructed;

(2) the location of the facility;

(3) an estimate of the maximum cost of the facility;

(4) a statement identifying private and public agencies that will use the facility and the contribution each agency will make to the cost of the facility; and

(5) a justification of the need for the facility.

(e) INCREASING COSTS OF APPROVED FACILITIES.—The estimated maximum cost of a facility noticed under subsection (d) may be increased by an amount equal to the percentage increase in construction costs from the date the notice is submitted to Congress. However, the increase in the cost of the facility may not be more than 10 percent of the estimated maximum cost included in the notice. The Secretary shall decide what increase in construction costs has occurred.

(f) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION, PATENTS, AND DEVELOPMENTS.—When the United States Government makes more than a minimal contribution to a research or development activity under this chapter, the Secretary shall include in the arrangement for the activity a provision to ensure that all information, patents, and developments related to the activity are available to the public. The owner of a background patent may not be deprived of a right under the patent.

(Added Pub. L. 112-141, div. C, title I, §31204(a), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 759; amended Pub. L. 114-94, div. B, title XXIV, §24202(a), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1711.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (b)(6). Pub. L. 114-94 added par. (6).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 2012, see section 3(a) of Pub. L. 112-141, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2012 Amendment note under section 101 of Title 23, Highways.

§ 30183. Prohibition on certain disclosures

Any report of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, or of any officer, employee, or contractor of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, relating to any highway traffic accident or the investigation of such accident conducted pursuant to this chapter or section 403 of title 23, may be made available to the public only in a manner that does not identify individuals.

¹ So in original. Probably should be preceded by “the”.

(Added Pub. L. 112-141, div. C, title I, §31204(a), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 760.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 2012, see section 3(a) of Pub. L. 112-141, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2012 Amendment note under section 101 of Title 23, Highways.

CHAPTER 303—NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER

Sec.

- 30301. Definitions.
- 30302. National Driver Register.
- 30303. State participation.
- 30304. Reports by chief driver licensing officials.
- 30305. Access to Register information.
- [30306. Repealed.]
- 30307. Criminal penalties.
- 30308. Authorization of appropriations.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 117-58, div. B, title IV, §24218(b), Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 831, struck out item 30306 “National Driver Register Advisory Committee”.

§ 30301. Definitions

In this chapter—

(1) “alcohol” has the same meaning given that term in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation.

(2) “chief driver licensing official” means the official in a State who is authorized to—

(A) maintain a record about a motor vehicle operator’s license issued by the State; and

(B) issue, deny, revoke, suspend, or cancel a motor vehicle operator’s license issued by the State.

(3) “controlled substance” has the same meaning given that term in section 102 of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 802).

(4) “motor vehicle” means a vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer, or semitrailer propelled or drawn by mechanical power and used on public streets, roads, or highways, but does not include a vehicle operated only on a rail line.

(5) “motor vehicle operator’s license” means a license issued by a State authorizing an individual to operate a motor vehicle on public streets, roads, or highways.

(6) “participating State” means a State that has notified the Secretary under section 30303 of this title of its participation in the National Driver Register.

(7) “State” means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

(8) “State of record” means a State that has given the Secretary a report under section 30304 of this title about an individual who is the subject of a request for information made under section 30305 of this title.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 973.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
30301	23:401 (note).	Oct. 25, 1982, Pub. L. 97-364, §202, 96 Stat. 1740.

In clauses (4) and (5), the words “public streets, roads, or highways” are substituted for “highway” and “‘highway’ means any road or street” for consistency in the revised title.

In clause (4), the words “rail line” are substituted for “rail or rails” for consistency in the revised title.

The definitions of “Secretary”, “Register”, and “Register system” are omitted as surplus because the complete name of the Secretary of Transportation and the National Driver Register are used the first time the terms appear in a section.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CRIME VICTIMS FROM CERTAIN DISCLOSURES OF INFORMATION

Pub. L. 109-162, title VIII, §827, Jan. 5, 2006, 119 Stat. 3066, provided that: “In developing regulations or guidance with regard to identification documents, including driver’s licenses, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Administrator of Social Security, shall consider and address the needs of victims, including victims of battery, extreme cruelty, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking, who are entitled to enroll in State address confidentiality programs, whose addresses are entitled to be suppressed under State or Federal law or suppressed by a court order, or who are protected from disclosure of information pursuant to section 384 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1367).”

IMPROVED SECURITY FOR DRIVERS’ LICENSES AND PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Pub. L. 116-260, div. U, title X, §1001(c), Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 2306, provided that: “Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 27, 2020], a State does not need to require an applicant for a driver’s license or identification card to provide separate documentation of the applicant’s Social Security account number in order to comply with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (division B of Public Law 109-13; 49 U.S.C. 30301 note).”

Pub. L. 116-136, div. B, title VI, §16006, Mar. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 545, provided that: “The Secretary of Homeland Security, under the authority granted under section 205(b) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-13; 49 U.S.C. 30301 note) shall extend the deadline by which States are required to meet the driver license and identification card issuance requirements under section 202(a)(1) of such Act until not earlier than September 30, 2021.”

Pub. L. 110-177, title V, §508, Jan. 7, 2008, 121 Stat. 2543, provided that:

“(a) MINIMUM DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of section 202(b)(6) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 [div. B of Pub. L. 109-13] (49 U.S.C. 30301 note), a State may, in the case of an individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2), include in a driver’s license or other identification card issued to that individual by the State, the address specified in that subparagraph in lieu of the individual’s address of principle residence.

“(2) INDIVIDUALS AND INFORMATION.—The individuals and addresses referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

“(A) In the case of a Justice of the United States, the address of the United States Supreme Court.

“(B) In the case of a judge of a Federal court, the address of the courthouse.