

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4797

To amend title 18, United States Code, to require that Bureau of Prisons help Federal prisoners who are being released to obtain appropriate ID to facilitate their reentry into society at no cost to the prisoner, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 22, 2019

Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mr. EVANS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to require that Bureau of Prisons help Federal prisoners who are being released to obtain appropriate ID to facilitate their reentry into society at no cost to the prisoner, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Restoring Access
5 Through Identification Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROVISION OF PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR**
2 **PRISONERS.**

3 (a) TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.—Subpara-
4 graph (B) of section 4042(a)(6) of the title 18, United
5 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

6 “(B) obtain, at no cost to the prisoner,
7 identification documents, including social secu-
8 rity cards, birth certificates, and driver’s li-
9 censes or State photo identification documents;
10 and”.

11 (b) SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007.—Section 231(b)
12 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60541(b))
13 is amended by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

14 “(1) OBTAINING IDENTIFICATION.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall as-
16 sist prisoners in obtaining, at no cost to the
17 prisoner, identification documents prior to re-
18 lease from a term of imprisonment in a Federal
19 prison or if the individual was not sentenced to
20 a term of imprisonment in a Federal prison,
21 prior to release from a sentence to a term in
22 community confinement, including a social secu-
23 rity card, birth certificate, and driver’s license
24 or other State photo identification document.

25 “(B) NOTICE TO PRISONERS OF INABILITY
26 TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS.—

1 “(i) LACK OF RESPONSE FROM FED-
2 ERAL OR STATE AGENCY.—If the Director
3 cannot obtain a copy of a document re-
4 quired to obtain a form of identification
5 described in subparagraph (A) because of
6 inaction by the Federal or State agency
7 from which the document was requested,
8 the Director shall provide to the prisoner—

9 “(I) a written statement that ex-
10 plains what steps the Director took in
11 trying to obtain the document; and

12 “(II) any documents transmitted
13 to the Director by the Federal or
14 State agency in response to the re-
15 quest for the document.

16 “(ii) LACK OF AUTHORIZATION FROM
17 PRISONER.—If the Director cannot obtain
18 a copy of a document required to obtain a
19 form of identification described in subpara-
20 graph (A) because the prisoner does not
21 provide the authorization required to ob-
22 tain the document, the Director shall pro-
23 vide a written statement to the prisoner
24 that explains why the document was not
25 obtained.

1 “(C) REPORT.—On an annual basis, the
2 Director shall submit to Congress a report on
3 the receipt of driver’s licenses or other State
4 photo identification documents by prisoners de-
5 scribed in subparagraph (A) that includes, for
6 the previous year—

7 “(i) the number of prisoners who re-
8 ceived such an identification document;
9 and

10 “(ii) the number of prisoners released
11 without receiving such an identification
12 document, and the reasons that such pris-
13 oners did not receive such an identification
14 document.”.

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