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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 12, 2022**

### **Have You Obtained Your STAR ID Yet? Federal Deadline One Year Away**

*Federal Government Extended Compliance Deadline to May 2023 during COVID-19*

**MONTGOMERY** – The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) shares the following reminder: The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) enforcement deadline for Alabama’s STAR ID is May 3, 2023. STAR ID, which stands for Secure, Trusted and Reliable Identification, is Alabama’s version of REAL ID, an identification program the federal government launched more than a decade ago in response to the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

In June 2021, the Federal Government announced the extension concerning the deadline during the COVID-19 pandemic because of its effects on driver licensing agencies across the nation. As the threat of the COVID-19 continues to diminish and Alabamians return to life as normal, ALEA has successfully completed the upgrade and modernization of the Agency’s new statewide Driver License System, known as LEADS.

ALEA’s Secretary Hal Taylor said, “As we continue to improve the quality of driver license services across our great state through innovation and the full integration of technology with our new LEADS system, we recognize the necessity to take this opportunity to remind Alabama citizens of the upcoming deadline and requirements as it relates to obtaining a STAR ID on an Alabama Driver License.”

ALEA Driver License Division Chief Jonathan Archer said, “Since launching LEADS on Tuesday, April 26, a number of customers have asked whether the STAR ID is among the list of expanded online services, however due to the federal requirements, STAR IDs must be obtained by visiting an ALEA Driver License Office in-person. Driver License Examiners are required to examine and scan documents into LEADS per federal law. However, once customers receive their first STAR ID issuance they may renew online or at a probate or license commissioner’s office.”

Director of ALEA’s Department of Public Safety (DPS) Colonel Jimmy Helms said, “The advantages of LEADS allow Driver License employees to complete daily tasks more efficiently, allowing a greater number of customers to be served. The initial feedback received from those customers who have experienced LEADS through both online and in-person use has been overwhelmingly positive. We encourage everyone to visit our Agency’s website prior to a STAR ID issuance to ensure citizens understand all document requirements before traveling to an ALEA Driver License Office.”

The Agency offers an [online guide](#) designed to assist with the STAR ID application process, as well as to determine eligibility. The online guide includes a checklist for requirements and necessary documents, a list of ALEA Driver License Examining Office locations across the state and the option to schedule an appointment at many of our locations.

Required documents will be used to establish identity and date of birth, confirm authorized presence in the United States and verify address of principal residence. An applicant whose name has changed from the one displayed on the documents produced (marriage, adoption, court order, etc.) will also be required to produce official documents verifying the name change.

Secretary Taylor added, “We encourage all citizens to take advantage of the resources and information provided online to determine whether they are eligible for a STAR ID and to begin gathering the necessary documents to obtain a STAR on your license. While Alabama does not require its citizens to have a STAR ID, it will be a requirement of DHS beginning in May 2023, to have a STAR on your license or be required to provide additional proof of identity such as a valid, current U.S. Passport to board a domestic commercial flight.”

For further information, <https://www.alea.gov/dps/driver-license/star-id>.

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