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**State of Nevada**  
**Department of Corrections**

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Date: September 19, 2016

To: Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice

Subject: Senate Bill 423 - State Identification Cards and/or Driver's Licenses for NDOC Inmates

SB 423 states in part:

- NDOC will provide a photo identification card and
- NDOC will provide information and reasonable assistance in acquiring a Driver License or Identification Card from DMV.
- DMV will waive the normal fees for NDOC inmates.
- Every applicant must provide proof of his or her full legal name and age by providing the "Photo Identification Card" issued by the NDOC pursuant to NRS 209.11.

I have discussed this issue with DMV Deputy Director Terri Albertson, because the NDOC recognizes that a DMV Identification Card or a Driver's License is extremely important to inmates who are paroling to our communities, as this will assist them in obtaining housing, employment and benefits that they may be entitled to.

In discussing this issue with the DMV, it is rather simple to obtain a duplicate DMV ID or a Driver's License if the inmate was committed to NDOC under the same identity on the existing DMV License or ID. The assumption is that the inmate provided the DMV with a birth certificate or other official identification document prior to their prison commitment, and therefore, the card issued is simply a duplicate.

The NDOC does provide inmates with the necessary forms and information at Intake, and prior to their release to parole or discharge from NDOC to at least obtain their DMV ID's.

However, these are obstacles that the NDOC has not been able to overcome:

- Many of our inmates have a number of aliases, making the identification of their true identity difficult.
- If the inmate was committed to NDOC by the court under an alias, the NDOC has to use that name throughout his/her incarceration and therefore, the NDOC identification card

which is presented at the DMV is not accepted as valid ID, which prevents the issuing of a DMV ID or Driver's License.

- The NDOC cannot force an inmate to get a copy of his/her birth certificate.
- If the name under which the inmate was committed to NDOC does not match the DMV records through facial recognition and finger prints, again the DMV will not issue a DMV ID or Driver's License.
- NDOC does not have funding to escort medium and higher custody inmates to DMV to obtain a DMV Identification Card. Therefore, the most that the NDOC can provide the inmate that is discharging or paroling is the NDOC identification card.

Additionally, there are a number of reasons why an inmate may not want to have their true identity discovered:

- They may have holds, warrants or detainers from other law enforcement agencies and they do not want their true identity or other aliases discovered because they know that they would be prosecuted under their true identity or those aliases and have to serve time in other jurisdictions.
- They may owe restitution under their true identity or another alias.
- They may owe back child support under their true identity or another alias.

The NDOC will continue to make efforts to improve our systems, forms and information in an effort to assist inmates in obtaining at the minimum a DMV ID card.



David Tristan

Deputy Director

Cc: Director Jim Dzurenda;

Deputy Director Quentin Byrne