

Division of Vehicles
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To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Lacey Black, Manager, Kansas Division of Vehicles
Date: March 20, 2024
RE: Senate Bill 500

Thank you, Madam Chair, and members of the committee, for the opportunity to provide testimony for Senate Bill 500. I am Lacey Black, the manager of Driver Solutions with the Division of Vehicles. Driver Solutions is the Department responsible suspending, reinstating, and issuing restricted driving privileges.

One provision included in this bill would allow an eligible driver to bypass the suspension period and be issued a restricted license pursuant to KSA 8-2110. Current statute requires a driver with a suspended license to apply for restricted driving privileges. Under this bill, upon receiving a court notification of non-compliance, the Department would review the individual's driving record, and should they fulfill the criteria, a 60-day restriction would be issued. If compliance is not met within that 60-day period, a suspension will go into effect. The Department has no concerns with automatically issuing the restricted privileges instead of leaving it up to the person to go through the application process, which does not have a fee associated with it.

This bill would also open the eligibility for the restricted license to a group of drivers who have not been eligible in the past. Currently, if a driver is in a revoked status for any reason, they are automatically denied for restricted driving privileges. Opening this restriction up to assist more drivers to get back on the road would be beneficial to those currently on a three-year revocation with no option to drive. There are currently around 3,300 drivers who could potentially qualify for a restricted license with this bill passing.

The five-year look-back piece of this bill would be extremely impactful to KDOR. This would require every suspension for failure to comply to initiate a "pend" in the system, so a notice is sent five years later if the suspension is not complied with. This will require system enhancements by our IT department which will take time to get implemented.

All the changes this bill includes will require updating applications, letters, website, and staff training. There will also be enhancements to our driver's license system that will have to be made and that will require efforts from our IT department. These things will take time to implement so KDOR is asking to have an effective date of January 1, 2025, to ensure everything can be done and the Department can stay in compliance.

Thank you,
Lacey Black
Division of Vehicles Manager