



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

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Senate Transportation Committee
March 22, 2021
House Bill 2295

Kansas Association of Counties
Testimony in Support

Chairman Petersen and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer testimony in support of HB 2295, which would exempt municipal motor grader vehicle operators from the requirement to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL).

CDL's are a necessary part of the regulatory scheme for driver's licenses. Generally, vehicles over a certain weight limit require a CDL in order to operate, as the CDL ensures the appropriate training has taken place for the driver to safely operate the vehicle. Motor grader vehicles, however, are not the focus of CDL training. CDL training focuses primarily on how to drive a semitrailer, or operate other large vehicles on the highway at speed. As a result, the skills and knowledge necessary for a motor grader are not taught.

Counties looking for motor grader operators are competing with trucking companies for licensed CDL drivers. That drives up the pay rate, as the CDL licensing and testing has to be factored into the pay scale. This requirement also discourages some applicants, as some see the requirement for a CDL and immediately determine that they do not qualify for the position.

HB 2295 would eliminate the CDL requirement for motor grader operators. Because motor graders are so much different than other heavy equipment, counties already have to train drivers prior to allowing them to drive a grader. Eliminating the CDL requirement simply eliminates training (and cost) for potential applicants that is not directly relevant to the job that the person will be performing. This would also lower the training and retention costs for counties, as counties should not be forced to compete with trucking companies for these positions.

KAC supports HB 2295, and asks that the committee recommend this bill favorably for passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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