

SESSION OF 2020

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 326

As Amended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 326, as amended, would amend law related to driver's licenses.

Online Renewal

The bill would extend age-related eligibility for electronic online renewal of a driver's license from ages 21 through 49 to ages 21 through 64.

Vehicle Class

The bill would amend the definitions of classes of commercial vehicles for purposes of commercial driver's licensing to define each class by gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating for single vehicles, or gross combination weight or gross combination vehicle weight rating. In current law, the classes are defined only by gross weight ratings or gross combination weight rating.

Notifications via Electronic Mail

The bill would authorize the Division of Vehicles (Division), Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), to send a notice of driver's license expiration or renewal application electronically to the holder of a driver's license, if authorized by the person, at an electronic mail address provided to the

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Division. Under continuing law and without such authorization, the notice would be mailed. The bill would specify a license holder could revoke authorization to send the notice electronically at any time and would require the Division to mail subsequent notices to that license holder.

The bill would also make technical changes, including removing a requirement for a report in 2012.

Background

The House Committee on Transportation (House Committee) amended the bill by inserting the contents of SB 342, as amended by the Senate Committee on Transportation (Senate Committee), and the language of SB 356, as introduced.

SB 326 (Online Driver's License Renewal)

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee at the request of the Director of Vehicles, KDOR (Director).

In the Senate Committee hearing, the Driver Services Manager, KDOR, provided proponent testimony, stating the bill would align with a continuing requirement to require an individual age 65 or older to renew every 4 years, rather than every 6 years as for those ages 21 through 64.

A representative of the Kansas Optometric Association provided written-only neutral testimony. He noted vision standards in current law and requirements for eye examinations, and he stated the organization continues to encourage the Division to develop protocols so that those with chronic health conditions, such as diabetes or glaucoma, are not allowed to renew online.

Continuing law states the determination on whether an electronic online renewal application is permitted shall be

made by the Director or the Director's designee. Continuing law requires a driver's license renewed online to be renewed in person upon the subsequent renewal. It also requires certification that an applicant's vision satisfies statutory requirements and the applicant has undergone an examination of eyesight by a licensed ophthalmologist or a licensed optometrist within the preceding year. The applicant must authorize the exchange of vision and medical information between the Division and the applicant's ophthalmologist or optometrist.

The Senate Committee recommended the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

In the House Committee hearing, the Director provided proponent testimony. A representative of the Kansas Optometric Association provided written-only neutral testimony.

The House Committee amended the bill to add the contents of SB 342, as amended by the Senate Committee (pertaining to driver's license notices), and the language of SB 356, as introduced (pertaining to commercial vehicle classes, driver's licenses).

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on SB 326, KDOR estimates the bill would have no fiscal effect on state revenue and would require \$3,500, all from the State General Fund (SGF), for FY 2021 to implement the bill and to modify the driver's licensing system. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.

SB 342 (Electronic Driver's License Notices)

SB 342 was introduced by the Senate Committee at the request of the Division.

In the Senate Committee hearing, the Division's Driver Services Manager provided proponent testimony, stating this option, provided only upon authorization by the license holder, would provide an opportunity to provide more detailed and frequent communication pertaining to license renewal and could reduce printing and postage costs. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to specify a person could revoke the authorization at any time and would subsequently receive notices that were mailed. [Note: The House Committee retained these amendments.]

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on SB 342, as introduced, KDOR estimates enactment of the bill would require \$7,000, all from the SGF, in FY 2021 to modify the driver's licensing system to allow notifications of an expiring driver's license by electronic mail. Without knowing how many individuals would authorize electronic notification, KDOR is unable to provide a precise estimate of lower postage costs. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.

SB 356 (Defining Classes of Commercial Vehicles for Driver's License Purposes)

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee at the request of the Division.

In the Senate Committee hearing, the Driver Services Manager, KDOR, provided proponent testimony. He stated the amendments to the definitions would align state definitions of commercial motor vehicles with those of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. No other testimony was provided.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, enactment of SB 356 would not have a fiscal effect on KDOR.