

SESSION OF 2020

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 275

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 275, as amended, would amend law regarding penalties for driving with a suspended license. Under continuing law, the Division of Vehicles is required to extend a period of suspension or revocation of a driver's license for an additional period of 90 days. The bill would exempt a person found guilty of driving a vehicle while that person's license is suspended for failure to comply with a traffic citation from imposition of an additional 90-day suspension.

The bill also would amend law regarding qualifications for a restricted driver's license available under certain circumstances to a driver convicted of failure to comply with a traffic citation. The bill would remove this qualification: the individual has not previously received a stayed suspension as a result of a conviction for driving with a suspended license.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Transportation at the request of Senator Faust-Goudeau.

In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Faust-Goudeau provided proponent testimony, as did a Sedgwick County commissioner; a private citizen; and representatives of ACLU Kansas, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, and The Caring Center of Wichita. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the executive director

*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>

of Kansas Legal Services, Inc. and three private citizens. Proponents stated the bill would allow more people whose licenses were suspended for failing to pay fines an opportunity to drive legally with a restricted license, maintain employment, and care for their families. Several amendments were proposed.

Opponent testimony was received from a representative of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Sheriffs Association, and the Kansas Peace Officers Association; a representative of the League of Kansas Municipalities provided written-only opponent testimony. They expressed concern with a provision in the bill as introduced which would eliminate the 90-day extension of suspension, not just suspensions for failure to fully comply with a traffic citation.

No neutral testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to exempt a person found guilty of driving a vehicle while that person's license is suspended for failure to comply with a traffic citation (*i.e.*, failure to appear before the court or pay in full any fine and court costs or otherwise fail to comply with a traffic citation) from an additional 90-day suspension for being charged with driving while the license is suspended.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill as introduced, the Office of Judicial Administration and the League of Kansas Municipalities indicate enactment of the bill would have a negligible fiscal effect that could be absorbed within existing resources. The Kansas Association of Counties indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect, assuming individuals who commit other offenses while their licenses are suspended will not be jailed. The Department of Revenue states enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.