

Collection of Emergency Contact Information; HB 2245

HB 2245 adds law authorizing the Division of Vehicles (Division), Department of Revenue, to collect emergency contact information and provides for the use of such information by law enforcement agencies.

The bill requires the Division to maintain emergency contact information for holders of valid Kansas driver's licenses, instruction permits, or non-driver's identification cards beginning no later than July 1, 2022.

The bill requires the Division to maintain in its files a record of the name, address, and telephone number of each individual the holder authorizes to be contacted if the holder is injured or dies in a vehicular accident or another emergency situation.

The bill requires the contact information to be kept confidential. The bill exempts these records from provisions of the Kansas Open Records Act and states the provisions providing for confidentiality of records expire on July 1, 2026, unless the Legislature reviews and reenacts the provisions, pursuant to the Kansas Open Records Act, prior to July 1, 2026. The bill authorizes disclosure only to law enforcement officers (as defined in continuing law) in Kansas or another state for the purpose of making contact with a named individual to report the injury or death of the holder.

The bill requires the Division to include a place on an application for a driver's license, instruction permit, or non-driver's identification card for an applicant to list not more than two emergency contacts. Applicants are not required to provide the emergency contact information. The bill also requires the application to have a statement describing the confidential nature of the information and state that, by providing the information, the applicant consents to the limited disclosure and use of the information.

The bill requires the Division to establish forms and procedures posted on its website and to include a method for adding, amending, or deleting emergency contact information electronically or delivering or mailing a paper form to the Division.

The bill states its provisions do not prohibit the Division from disclosing information to the holder of the driver's license, instruction permit, or non-driver's identification card, or such holder's authorized agent, or as permitted in continuing law regarding disclosure to specified entities for specified purposes.