

SESSION OF 2017

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 5

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 5, as amended, would allow a person whose driver's license has expired while it is suspended for failure to pay fines for any traffic citation to qualify for a restricted driver's license if the person had received a stayed suspension as a result of a conviction for driving with a suspended license.

The bill would allow a person whose driver's license expires while it is suspended for failure to pay fines for any traffic citation to receive a restricted license only once after June 30, 2017.

The bill would add driving directly to or from any religious worship service held by a religious organization to approved uses of such a restricted license. Current law states the person's driving privileges are restricted to driving only to and from work or school, in the course of employment, to and from an appointment with a health care provider or during a medical emergency, and to and from any probation or parole meetings, drug or alcohol counseling, or any place the person is required to go by a court.

The bill also would reduce from 90 days to 60 days the period of time after which a person who voluntarily surrenders a driver's license may reapply for and receive a new driver's license.

*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>

Background

The bill was requested by Senator Faust-Goudeau, who testified in support of the bill, stating the bill would allow more people whose licenses had been suspended for failure to pay traffic fines to drive to and from work and increase their ability to pay those debts. The vice-chairperson of the Racial Profiling Advisory Board of Wichita also provided proponent testimony. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by Representative Finney; former Representative Ben Scott, the president of the Topeka Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the chairperson of the Racial Profiling Advisory Board of Wichita; and representatives of the Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice and the Kansas Black Leadership Council.

The Manager of Driver Solutions, Division of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), provided neutral testimony on the bill and additional information to the Committee subsequent to the hearing, on current law and practices regarding suspended driver's licenses.

No opponent testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to allow a person to apply for and receive a restricted license only once after June 30, 2017, under the circumstances described in the bill; add driving to and from religious worship services to allowable uses of such a restricted license; and reduce the time after which a person who has voluntarily surrendered a driver's license could apply for a new driver's license.

The language regarding religious worship services would mirror that in statute for new-driver restricted licenses (KSA 2016 Supp. 8-2,101 and 8-296).

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the bill, as introduced, would have no fiscal effect on KDOR.