

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
SENATE BILL NO. 446**

As Agreed to March 29, 2022

**Brief\***

SB 446 would authorize driving to and from religious activities by 15-year-olds with restricted driver's licenses and would authorize online renewal of nondriver's identification cards under certain circumstances.

***Authorizing Certain 15-year-olds to Drive to Religious Activities***

The bill would allow a 15-year-old who holds a restricted class C or M driver's license to drive, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m., directly to or from any religious activity held by a religious organization.

The bill also would authorize a 16-year-old who holds a restricted class C or M driver's license to drive directly to or from a religious activity, rather than a religious worship service as in current law, under certain circumstances.

"Religious organization" is defined in continuing law in the Motor Vehicle Driver's License Act to mean any organization, church, body of communicants, or group that gathers for religious purposes at a defined place of worship and has a regular schedule of services meeting at least on a weekly basis and has been determined to be organized and created as a *bona fide* religious organization.

***Renewal of Nondriver's Identification Cards***

The bill would require the Secretary of Revenue to permit electronic online renewal of nondriver's identification cards under certain circumstances.

The bill would prohibit consecutive electronic online renewals, and would require an applicant to have provided documentation of identity, lawful presence in the country, and Kansas residency. The bill also would prohibit online renewal for any person who is a registered offender under the Kansas Offender Registration Act. The determination on whether a renewal application is permitted would be made by the Director of Vehicles or the Director's designee.

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\*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kIRD>

The bill would authorize the Division of Vehicles (Division), Kansas Department of Revenue, to use its most recent color image and signature image of an applicant for an identification card issued through electronic renewal.

The bill would require the Division to report to the House Committee on Transportation and the Senate Committee on Transportation regarding the implementation and effects of the online renewal process outlined in the bill before February 1, 2023.

The bill also would authorize use of either a digital color image or photograph or a laser-engraved photograph of the holder on a nondriver's identification card.

### **Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee agreed to replace the contents of SB 446 with the provisions of HB 2609 and SB 529. The provisions of HB 2609 were amended to specify a religious activity, rather than a religious worship service, of a religious organization and to restrict driving for this purpose by a 15-year-old with a restricted driver's license to between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. The Conference Committee also agreed to amend additional provisions restricting the driving of a 16-year-old holder of a restricted driver's license to authorize driving to and from a religious activity, rather than a religious worship service.

[*Note:* The contents of SB 446 as introduced, to designate certain bridges in Cherokee County as Veterans Memorial Bridge, are included in the Conference Committee Report for HB 2478.]

### **Background**

#### ***HB 2609 (Authorizing Certain 15-year-olds to Drive to Religious Activities)***

The bill was introduced by Representative Esau and 46 other representatives.

#### *House Committee on Transportation*

In the House Committee hearing, Representative Esau and two private citizens provided **proponent** testimony, indicating the bill would be a benefit to rural Kansans and families with busy parents, and that driving to a church service is typically as safe as currently permitted driving.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by Representative Woodard.

No other testimony was provided.

The bill was withdrawn from the Calendar and referred to the House Committee on Appropriations on February 23, 2022. On March 1, 2022, the bill was rereferred to the House Committee on Transportation, which again recommended the bill for passage.

### ***SB 529 (Renewal of Nondriver's Identification Cards)***

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Olson.

#### ***Senate Transportation***

In the Senate Transportation hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Division. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to remove the authority of the Secretary of Revenue to adopt and administer rules and regulations to implement the program.

#### **Fiscal Information**

### ***HB 2609 (Authorizing Certain 15-year-olds to Drive to Religious Activities)***

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2609 as introduced, the Kansas Department of Revenue states enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on agency operations.

### ***SB 529 (Renewal of Nondriver's Identification Cards)***

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on SB 529 as introduced, the bill would require the Division information technology section to perform 180 hours of work, costing \$9,000 from the State General Fund in FY 2023. Work by a vendor would also be required for these functions, but an estimate for the cost of such vendor is unknown. A \$2.00 convenience fee for electronic renewal would be charged to customers and would be retained by the vendor. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2023 Governor's Budget Report*.

Driver's license; worship services; teen driver; nondriver's identification card

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