

SESSION OF 2018

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2606

As Amended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2606 would specify vision test requirements for qualifying applicants for electronic online driver's license renewal. A requirement in continuing law that a driver's license examiner administer an eyesight exam prior to renewal of a driver's license would be waived under the conditions listed below:

- The electronic online renewal applicant must be at least 18 years old but less than 50 years old;
- The applicant must certify under penalty of law the applicant's vision meets requirements in continuing law (20/40 or better in at least one eye as tested by the driver's license examiner, 20/60 or better in at least one eye if the applicant submits a vision report from an ophthalmologist or optometrist);
- The applicant must certify under penalty of law the applicant has undergone an examination by a licensed ophthalmologist or a licensed optometrist within the previous year; and
- The applicant must authorize the exchange of vision and medical information between the Division of Vehicles (Division) and the applicant's ophthalmologist or optometrist.

The bill would state the provisions allowing waiver of vision examination would expire July 1, 2022, and the bill would require the Division report to the House Committee on

*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>

Transportation by February 1, 2022, regarding the online renewal process and its effects to safety on the state's roads and highways.

The bill would add to rule and regulation authority of the Secretary of Revenue regarding electronic online renewal of a driver's license that the Secretary could include in those rules and regulations requirements that an electronic online renewal applicant has previously provided documentation of identity, lawful presence, and residence to the Division for electronic scanning.

Background

The bill was requested by a representative of the Division of Vehicles, Department of Revenue (Department). In the House Committee on Transportation hearing, a Division representative testified states currently using online driver's license renewal indicated a need to expand vision testing options to increase online renewal and the Department had worked with the Kansas Optometric Association on the bill. The executive director of the Kansas Optometric Association provided neutral testimony. No opponent testimony was presented.

The House Committee adopted a technical amendment requested by the revisor.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill as introduced, the Department indicates enactment of the bill could reduce the need for state driver's license examiners. The Department indicated a survey of 32 other states that implemented online renewal found all but one did so within existing resources; however, the Department cannot accurately estimate the bill's fiscal effect on agency resources. The Board of Examiners in Optometry indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the agency. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2019 Governor's Budget Report*.