

SESSION OF 2010

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2483

As Recommended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2483 would remove a requirement that a 15-year-old applicant for a restricted Class C or Class M driver's license has successfully completed an approved course in driver training.

The bill would become effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

Representative Julie Menghini testified as a proponent of the bill. She stated that reasonably priced driver's education is not available in many areas of the state. She also said that the graduated driver's license requirements placed into law in 2009 (HB 2143) increased the driving experience requirements for those applying for restricted licenses.

Presenting testimony in opposition to the bill were three owners of driving schools, two public school driver education teachers, the driver education supervisor at Manhattan High School, a representative of AAA Kansas, and the coordinator of technology education/driver education for the Wichita Public Schools. Written testimony opposing the bill was received from a private citizen.

Points made by opponents to the bill included that 15-year-old drivers do not have sufficient experience without taking driver's education to safely drive on public streets and roads or

*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>

pass the road test portion of the Kansas driving examination; that removing the requirement would serve to reduce the number of driver's education courses available at public schools; and that the rates of property damage, injury, and death related to driving by these teens was likely to increase. Several stated that the requirement for driver's education should be increased, not decreased.

According to the fiscal note on the bill, the Department of Revenue estimated it would require as much as \$864,900 from the State Highway Fund in fiscal year 2011 for up to 20 full-time equivalent positions if it were required to administer an additional 35,000 driving tests, each taking approximately one hour. The Department indicated that it processes approximately 35,000 applications each year from those who have completed approved driver's education courses and therefore do not need to take driving tests. Because an exam fee currently is charged and the driving test is waived, no new fees would be collected. The Director of Vehicles also presented this information in neutral testimony on the bill.