

Approved: May 2, 1996
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara Lawrence at 12:00 p.m. on March 13, 1996 in Room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator David Corbin
Senator Tim Emert

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Jennifer Bishop, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Betty McBride, Director -Division of Vehicles

Others attending: See attached list

SB 729: School districts relating to short-term suspensions of pupils from school

Betty McBride stated that the Department of Division of Vehicles has concern that the passage of the bill would greatly affect the level of customer service provided at the Driver License stations. Additional time will be needed to explain the need for proper documentation to verify the applicants privilege to obtain a license. This could result in longer lines at driver license offices. Many applicants would not be able to furnish the documents on the first visit, and would have to return with the needed documents to process their application. If school is not in session, or if an applicant is coming from out of state where would applicants go to acquire the needed documentation. Ms. McBride encouraged the committee to look further into the proposed bill before passing it (Attachment 1).

Further discussion was held to try and amend HB 3065 in SB 729. Since there was not enough support for the amendment, the committee worked SB 729, which would extend the suspension time from five to ten days.

Senator Jones made a motion to pass SB 729. Senator Downey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion was held on SB 606.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for, March 13 at 1:30 p.m.

TE OF KANSAS

Bill Graves, Governor

Betty McBride, Director of Vehicles
Kansas Department of Revenue
915 SW Harrison St.
Topeka, KS 66626-0001



Division of Vehicles

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

John D. LaFaver, Secretary

(913) 296-3601
FAX (913) 296-3852
Hearing Impaired TTY (913) 296-3909

To: The Honorable Barbara Lawrence, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education

From: Betty McBride, Director
Division of Vehicles

Date: March 12, 1996

Madam Chair, members of the committee:

I am Betty McBride, Director of the Division of Vehicles. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the Kansas Department of Revenue regarding the amendment of House Bill 3065 into Senate Bill 729.

If amended and passed, this bill would require every individual applying for a driver's license or instruction permit, who is less than 18 years of age, to provide documentation that the individual holds a diploma or another certificate of graduation, a GED certificate from a state approved institution, or that the person is enrolled in, attending, and making satisfactory progress in school, or is excused from such requirement due to circumstances beyond such person's control.

The department has serious reservations regarding the administration of the provisions of this bill. For example, the requirement to suspend a driver license within ten days of being notified that a student has dropped out of school, could present administrative problems with students who go through a cycle of being suspended and reinstated within a short period of time. This would create a "yo-yo" effect of requiring the department to suspend and reinstate on a continuous basis. Notification that unless compliance is met, the license will be suspended, would have to be sent to applicants who fall within this category. Suspension letters would need to be sent to all who don't provide the proper documentation and certification. Suspension letters would have to be sent to students who have dropped out of school for the last several years but who are not yet eighteen years of age and would fall under this law.

According to the Kansas Department of Education, the drop out rate for Kansas high school students averages between 4.6% and 5.2% each year. Last year the drop out rate was 5%. This would have required an initial mailing of 6,580 suspension letters for the '94-'95 school year.

Another concern is that everyone under the age of 18 would be subject to this law; however, Kansas requires school attendance only until the age of 16.

Additional consideration would need to be given to the types of form(s) schools would use to report a student in non-compliance to the Division of Vehicles. Varying types and styles of forms lend themselves to forgery and problems related to use by persons not authorized for use.

SENATE EDUCATION
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ATTACHMENT 1

The Department has a concern that passage of this law would greatly affect the level of customer service provided at the Driver License stations. Additional time will be needed to explain the need for proper documentation to verify the applicants privilege to obtain a license. This could result in longer lines at driver license offices. Many applicants would not be able to furnish these documents on the first visit, and would have to return with the needed documents to process their application. If school is not in session, or if an applicant is coming from out of state where would applicants go to acquire the needed documentation.

An additional FTE will be needed in the Driver Control Bureau at a cost of \$20,961 annually to handle these additional documents. A significant increase in postage would be required for the mailing of necessary information, suspension orders, and reinstatement notices.

Madam Chair, members of the committee, we ask your serious consideration of the concerns indicated, before considering passage of this bill. I would stand for questions at this time.