



**Kansas Association of
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**Testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee
Neutral on SB477
February 15, 2024**

Chairman Petersen and Committee Members:

Our associations have reviewed this bill and we have been involved in periodic discussions of digital driver's licenses and identification cards over the past few years. We do not have a problem with the technology being proposed or the safeguards included in the proposal. We also believe there are many purposes where digital identification can be useful.

However, we do have concerns with its use in interactions with law enforcement officers. Our concerns are not centered on whether the information is accurate, but rather on operational aspects that impact officer safety, liability, and undesired possession of another person's phone or other electronic device.

When we stop a person and obtain the driver's license or ID card, we generally take that back to our vehicle with us where we can check NCIC, scan the bar code on the license if we are issuing a summons using an e-ticket system, and hold it until the interaction is completed. With a digital driver's license or ID is not a desired action for an officer to hold the other person's phone out of view of that person. If we write the information down while interacting with the person we have stopped, it is an additional distraction from monitoring the actions of the people involved. This causes a reduction in safety, creating opportunities for attack of the officers, concealing or disposing of evidence, and other undesired actions.

Technology can be a good thing and offer convenience to our citizens and sometimes to our officers. But this must be balanced with officer safety factors.

Also, it is not uncommon for people we interact with to accuse us of damaging their property. Handling the phone, which already may have damage, will likely increase those claims. Handling another person's phone is also certainly going to result in claims that we looked at other information on their phone.

We are not opposing advancing the digital identification system, but we are recommending that for persons operating a motor vehicle the current requirements of having the hard copy driver's license in their possession should be maintained and that if the person is not operating a motor vehicle and do have the hard copy of their identification in their immediate possession that it be provided to the officer when lawfully requested.

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