

Commercial Driver's Licenses: Military Even Exchange Program and Federal Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Program; SB 462

SB 462 grants certain authority to the Director of Vehicles (Director) of the Division of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue, regarding the Military Even Exchange Program for commercial driver's licenses (Program) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Program (Clearinghouse).

Military Even Exchange Program for Commercial Driver's Licenses

The bill authorizes the Director to waive the knowledge and skills test for driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) for an applicant who qualifies for a waiver under the Program.

[*Note:* Under the Program, an individual qualifies for an exemption from the knowledge test if the individual:

- Is currently licensed;
- Has been employed within the previous 12 months in a military position requiring operation of a military vehicle equivalent to a CMV; and
- Has submitted a completed application for military skills test waiver.]

The bill removes rule and regulation authority of the Secretary of Revenue regarding CMV skills tests administered by community and technical colleges. [*Note:* No rules and regulations have been promulgated under this authority.]

Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse

The bill authorizes the Director to adopt rules and regulations necessary to participate in and implement the Clearinghouse.

The bill requires the Director to:

- Query the Clearinghouse prior to issuing or renewing a commercial driver's license (CDL) or instruction permit;
- Review the commercial driver's information when notified by the Clearinghouse of a status change for that driver; and
- Disqualify a driver's commercial driving privileges within 60 days of receiving notice from the Clearinghouse that a driver is in violation of or non-compliant with Clearinghouse requirements.

The bill requires a disqualification of commercial driving privileges to be removed upon notification from the Clearinghouse that the driver:

- Is no longer in violation or non-compliance; or
- Was erroneously identified as in violation of or non-compliant with Clearinghouse requirements. In this case, the bill requires the disqualification to be removed as expeditiously as possible.

The bill adds these provisions to the Kansas Uniform Commercial Drivers' License Act.