



Friday, February 27, 2025

Senate Committee on Transportation
Capitol Building
300 SW 10th Avenue
Room 333E
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Dear Senate Committee on Transportation,

On behalf of Johnson County Community College (JCCC), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 2031, *"AN ACT concerning drivers' training; relating to driver education and motorcycle instructors; providing that driving school instructors may possess a motorcycle driver's license from any state; amending K.S.A. 8-276 and repealing the existing section."*

JCCC is proud to serve as an approved driver training school for driver education and motorcycle training in the state of Kansas. Each year, our team of ten driver education instructors licenses approximately 650 driving students and fifteen motorcycle instructors train approximately 500 riding students, equipping them with the skills to ride safely and earn their motorcycle endorsements. Ensuring the continued success of our programs requires the ability to hire highly qualified and skilled instructors. Unfortunately, current geographical restrictions on instructor qualifications limit our hiring pool, making it challenging to recruit the most qualified candidates in the bi-state Kansas City metro area.

Driver Education

Driver education instructors must meet one of four requirements to become licensed in Kansas:

1. Hold a valid Kansas teaching certificate with an endorsement in driver education.
2. Provide evidence of having completed six credit hours in driver education and three credit hours in general safety from an accredited college or university.
3. Possess a commercial certification of verification.
4. Hold a valid substitute teacher certificate and have, within the five years preceding each certificate's issuance, teaching experience in an approved driver education program.

Each of these qualifications ensures that instructors have the necessary expertise to teach driver education, regardless of the state that issued their driver's license. However, Kansas law currently mandates that instructors hold a Kansas driver's license, a restriction that has impacted staffing and course availability at JCCC. This requirement recently led to the termination of an exemplary employee and the cancellation of four scheduled classes, affecting over 100 enrolled students. Additionally, JCCC will be forced to terminate another instructor when his Kansas teaching certificate expires. Although he teaches in Missouri and resides in the state of Kansas, he will no longer meet the requirement of holding



a valid Kansas teaching certificate with an endorsement in driver education but rather a Missouri teaching certificate with an endorsement in driver education.

Motorcycle

Motorcycle instructors are certified through the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), a nationally recognized organization that promotes motorcycle safety and provides standardized training. The MSF Rider Coach Prep (RCP) course meets Kansas' requirements for instructor certification, offering consistent and rigorous training across state lines. Despite this, Kansas law currently restricts employment to instructors holding a Kansas driver's license, which has led JCCC to terminate 2 exemplary motorcycle employees and reject highly qualified candidates.

House Bill 2031 addresses this issue by allowing driving school instructors to possess a driver's license from any state. This change will enable JCCC to rehire lost instructors and expand its hiring pool for positions that are already difficult to fill, ensuring we can recruit skilled and personable instructors who are essential to our programs' success.

We urge your support for this important legislation. House Bill 2031 will not only benefit JCCC but will also strengthen motorcycle training programs across the state, promoting safer roadways and better-trained drivers and riders. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to supporting workforce development and safety in Kansas.

Sincerely,

Janel Duax
Program Coordinator – Motorcycle Training
Workforce Development and Continuing Education
Johnson County Community College