

Decatur Road & Bridge

From: Dave Flemming <cnroad@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:50 AM
To: Decatur Road & Bridge
Subject: Fw: House Bill 2295

From: Clair Schrock <cschrock@thomascountyks.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Dave Flemming <cnroad@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: House Bill 2295

Good Afternoon: I would agree that doing away with the CDL requirement for our equipment operators is a good idea. Anything we can do to get and retain help at the county road departments make perfect sense to me.

Clair Schrock Thomas County Road Supervisor

From: Dave Flemming <cnroad@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Clair Schrock <cschrock@thomascountyks.gov>; Gove <gcrd@ruraltel.net>; Maynard Nichols <roaddept@st-tel.net>; Norton <nortonrd@ruraltel.net>; Osborne <osbcohw@ruraltel.net>; Rawlins <rchd2@ruraltel.net>; Rooks <rocolfill@ruraltel.net>; Russell <cohw@russellks.net>; Sheridan <scrb@ruraltel.net>; Trego <drp80@yahoo.com>; Bill Ring <disaster@ellisisco.net>; Mitch Fritz <smcopworks@ruraltel.net>; Rick Capps <plforeman@ruraltel.net>; Rod Roeder <shcopw@hotmail.com>; Steve Pilger <s_l_pilger@yahoo.com>; Wayne Pheifer <grcohw@ruraltel.net>; Ernie Sheets <decaturrb@dccoks.org>
Subject: House Bill 2295

Good afternoon District 3 Highway Officials,

It's been brought to my attention that Representative Adam Smith is proposing to amend House Bill 2295 and create a new exception under KSA 8-2,127 to include....

(f) motor grader vehicles operated by an employee of a municipality, as defined in K.S.A. 75-6102, and amendments thereto, if such employee is operating the motor grader vehicle within the boundaries of such municipality.

Because the law states that motor grader operators need to have a CDL license, this proposal would exempt employees within the county from having it. I think this would be a good move as it is difficult to find young employees that have a CDL to apply for county jobs that are quite capable of operating county equipment. This will also eliminate the requirement of drug testing, fees, and Clearinghouse requirements that Counties are currently contending with. The majority of the operators in our county were grandfathered in with the CDL's but when we advertise for help, we state that CDL's are required therefore deterring a lot of potential employees. Representative Smith would like testimonials or the capability of doing a virtual meeting before Wednesday, February 17th.

I would encourage you to meet with your commissioners on this House Bil revision as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thanks, Dave Flemming, Cheyenne Conty Public Works Director

Cheyenne County Public Works

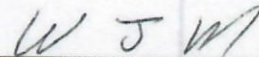
212 East Washington
P.O. Box 607
St. Francis, KS. 67756
(785) 332-8840



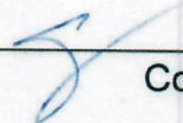
February 12, 2021

Dear Legislator,

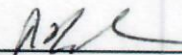
We are writing this letter to express our opinion in favor of amending House Bill 2295 and exempting the CDL license for motor grader operators that operate within the boundaries of the municipality. It has been very difficult for our county to fill the equipment operator position as we currently require the CDL license. I think this would be a good decision especially for counties that have townships to be capable of hiring more operators. Finding equipment operators has been very difficult in recent years and is going to become worse as the younger generation does not have a CDL license and they are difficult to pass. This would give them an opportunity to operate county equipment and see if they like this type of job without having a required CDL. Thank you for your time and consideration on this topic.



County Commissioner



County Commissioner



County Commissioner



Public Works Director

Decatur Road & Bridge

From: Brendan J. Mackay <bmackay@ellisco.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Decatur Road & Bridge
Subject: CDL Requirement

I am in support for removing the Commercial Driver's License requirement from motor grader operators. Removing the CDL would allow for a broader range of applicants to be considered at the county level. Currently many of us face an aging and shrinking labor force for county Road and Bridge Divisions, that are not attracting many applicants. If we do take someone that does not have their CDL it limits us to what they can do while the undergo training and preparation for their testing.

Thanks,



Brendan Mackay

Public Work Director
Ellis County Public Works
Office: 785-628-9455
Cell: 785-639-5246
1195 280th Avenue
Hays, KS 67601

Decatur Road & Bridge

From: Logan County Road Department Supervisor <roaddept@st-tel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 9:29 AM
To: Decatur Road & Bridge
Subject: House Bill 2295

We agree with amending the house bill, so that employees who do not currently have a CDL license would be able to operate county equipment (i.e. Motor Grader). As stated this would be helpful to almost every county, especially the more rural counties with a smaller population, who have a smaller talent pool to chose from when selecting candidates for hire within the county road department. This would allow these counties to have a wider range of applications that would be acceptable for hire within the county road departments. We believe this would be helpful to any and all counties.

Paul Lorenzen / Nathan Hales
Road Supervisor / Assistant Road Supervisor
Logan County Road Department
Email: roaddept@st-tel.net
Phone: (785)751-4448

Decatur Road & Bridge

From: Osborne County Highway Department <osbcohw@ruraltel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 11:38 AM
To: Decatur Road & Bridge
Subject: CDL-less motorgrader operators

Ernie,

Thanks for the info on the proposed amendment to be presented by Adam Smith. TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, As a 40 plus year veteran of public service I can say the last 10-15 years have been the most trying with all the changes and requirements that we as a rural district have had to deal with. Most requirements that we deal with are for the better although some just are very confusing. The most difficult problem we have at the moment in an environment of getting people to apply for a position that could be good help is that we require a class A CDL to make a better hourly wage. But to replace a blade operator that will not be required to drive a SEMI and just maintain a section of the county by blading and mowing as it is now you cannot find applicants as easy. A new CDL holder is more apt to say if I need to get that CDL just to run a blade, I might as well get a CDL and run over the road in a semi and make a whole lot more money. We (Osborne Co.) have also hired applicants and, trained them, took them to test, furnished a truck to test in, and paid for their endorsements. Not saying they couldn't have filled in driving a truck once in awhile but the hire was really for blade operator and bridge work. They attained the CDL basically for free and then move on to drive a truck over the road. With that being said and I could go on and on, please consider amending this bill as Rep. Adam Smith presents it to you and THANK-YOU in advance.

Bo French
Osborne County Road & Bridge



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Decatur Road & Bridge

From: Dave Flemming <cnroad@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:49 AM
To: Decatur Road & Bridge
Subject: Fw: House Bill 2295

From: plforeman@ruraltel.net <plforeman@ruraltel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 9:57 AM
To: 'Dave Flemming' <cnroad@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: House Bill 2295

Phillips County would like to see the amendment passed no longer requiring blade operators to obtain a CDL. This would be a benefit to have a better opportunity to hire new personnel in our shrinking labor pool.

Respectfully,
Steven A. Ellenberger
Phillips County Road & Bridge

From: Dave Flemming <cnroad@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:54 AM
To: plforeman@ruraltel.net
Subject: Re: House Bill 2295

Steven, I assume that you and your commissioners were in favor of the legislative change? Dave

From: plforeman@ruraltel.net <plforeman@ruraltel.net>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 10:12 AM
To: 'Dave Flemming' <cnroad@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: House Bill 2295

Dave,

I spoke with the commissioners this morning about this. Being new to my position, please let me know what I can do to help or who I need to be in contact with.

Respectfully,
Steven A. Ellenberger
Phillips County Road & Bridge
(785) 543-6856 work
(785) 533-5060 cell

From: Dave Flemming <cnroad@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Clair Schrock <cschrock@thomascountyks.gov>; Gove <gcrd@ruraltel.net>; Maynard Nichols <roaddept@st-tel.net>;

Decatur Road & Bridge

From: rchd2@ruraltel.net
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:07 AM
To: Decatur Road & Bridge
Subject: cdl licenses

To whom it may concern; I would like to show my support for the House Bill 2295, that Adam Smith is purposing. If passed this would make things at the county level a lot easier, and possibly easier to find and hire new employees.

Mark Loop
Supervisor
Rawlins County Road & Bridge

Decatur Road & Bridge

From: stanley.mcevoy <stanley.mcevoy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 10:42 AM
To: Decatur Road & Bridge
Subject: FW: support of amendment House Bill 2295

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: Sheridan County Road & Bridge <scrb@ruraltel.net>
Date: 2/15/21 10:38 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: stanley.mcevoy@yahoo.com
Subject: support of amendment House Bill 2295

I am writing this email to represent Sheridan County Road & Bridge Department in Hoxie KS. Myself Joseph Herskowitz-Supervisor, Foreman Nick Kane, and Foreman Rex Storer would like to take this time to say we are in full support of the amendment which would NOT require a CDL to operate a motor grader. We live in a small rural area that makes it very difficult to hire guys with CDL and now it seems speaking for our county, we are having problems just to get applications at all for open positions. We have face a few times that we train guys to go get their CDL and when they feel ready to take the test, we send them 30 minutes to nearest DMV. We had one employee had to go back twice before he passed his written test which you must pass before getting a permit to be able to drive with another CDL drive. After he had some driving time in on his permit, it took 3 times of driving back to the DMV for him to pass the driving test. We have had others that pass first time with flying colors but others it takes a few times which I feel its not the person but other than the CDL testing is not the easiest. Long story short if we are not subject to having CDL's to operate motor graders we and others could save time and money sending employees to obtain their CDL's. We have a policy that within 6 months of employment all employees must have a CDL with help of our company to obtain it. A past experience we had with an employee was they were on medication for schizophrenia. This employee did a very good job at operating a motor grader but he came to us and felt he didn't want to chance putting a higher risk of something happening if he was to be driving a semi and something happen. This at the time not knowing of the CDL to operate a motor grader was a way to keep this employee employed. After employees obtain their CDL they are given a pretty good raise and this employee was more than willing to give up a wage increase to prevent a possible accident from happening but also keeping his job. We have found with the struggle of

getting people with CDLs to apply has turned our company to contract gravel hauling because we have to keep our CDL employees in motor graders. Making it not a requirement to hold a CDL would benefit not only our county but several surrounding and i would about bet many others throughout Kansas be able to hire more applicants easier without the down fall of the applicant not having a CDL or not being able to obtain for whatever purpose. We hope there will be enough support to make this change and help many departments hiring process a lot easier. Thank you for your time.

--

Joseph Herskowitz Sheridan County Road & Bridge Supervisor

Nick Kane-Foreman

Rex Storer-Foreman

Decatur Road & Bridge

From: Sherman County Public Works <shcopw@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Decatur Road & Bridge
Subject: info from Sherman County

To whom it may concern,

Sherman County feels that requiring a CDL to drive a motor grader should not be required. If we hire someone to drive a motor grader, then we teach them to drive a motor grader, but then they would be required to get a cdl but have never driven a truck. They would have to learn to drive a truck as well as a motor grader. They are not allowed to take the test with a motor grader, and the test is geared towards a truck anyway.

Thank you
Rod Roeder
Sherman County
785-890-4865

Decatur Road & Bridge

From: Dave Flemming <cnroad@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:50 AM
To: Decatur Road & Bridge
Subject: Fw: House Bill 2295

From: Clair Schrock <cschrock@thomascountyks.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Dave Flemming <cnroad@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: House Bill 2295

Good Afternoon: I would agree that doing away with the CDL requirement for our equipment operators is a good idea. Anything we can do to get and retain help at the county road departments make perfect sense to me.

Clair Schrock Thomas County Road Supervisor

From: Dave Flemming <cnroad@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Clair Schrock <cschrock@thomascountyks.gov>; Gove <gcrd@ruraltel.net>; Maynard Nichols <roaddept@st-tel.net>; Norton <nortonrd@ruraltel.net>; Osborne <osbcohw@ruraltel.net>; Rawlins <rchd2@ruraltel.net>; Rooks <rocolfill@ruraltel.net>; Russell <cohw@russellks.net>; Sheridan <scrb@ruraltel.net>; Trego <drp80@yahoo.com>; Bill Ring <disaster@ellisisco.net>; Mitch Fritz <smcopworks@ruraltel.net>; Rick Capps <plforeman@ruraltel.net>; Rod Roeder <shcopw@hotmail.com>; Steve Pilger <s_l_pilger@yahoo.com>; Wayne Pheifer <grcohw@ruraltel.net>; Ernie Sheets <decaturrb@dccoks.org>
Subject: House Bill 2295

Good afternoon District 3 Highway Officials,

It's been brought to my attention that Representative Adam Smith is proposing to amend House Bill 2295 and create a new exception under KSA 8-2,127 to include....

(f) motor grader vehicles operated by an employee of a municipality, as defined in K.S.A. 75-6102, and amendments thereto, if such employee is operating the motor grader vehicle within the boundaries of such municipality.

Because the law states that motor grader operators need to have a CDL license, this proposal would exempt employees within the county from having it. I think this would be a good move as it is difficult to find young employees that have a CDL to apply for county jobs that are quite capable of operating county equipment. This will also eliminate the requirement of drug testing, fees, and Clearinghouse requirements that Counties are currently contending with. The majority of the operators in our county were grandfathered in with the CDL's but when we advertise for help, we state that CDL's are required therefore deterring a lot of potential employees. Representative Smith would like testimonials or the capability of doing a virtual meeting before Wednesday, February 17th.

I would encourage you to meet with your commissioners on this House Bil revision as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thanks, Dave Flemming, Cheyenne Conty Public Works Director