

HCS HB 1775 -- LICENSES ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

SPONSOR: Perkins

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation Infrastructure by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1775.

HOMELESS CHILDREN

The bill exempts homeless children, homeless youth, and unaccompanied youth from certain fees collected by Department of Revenue fee offices.

A minor's status as a homeless child, homeless youth, or unaccompanied youth shall be verified by a letter signed by a director or designee of a governmental or nonprofit agency providing services to homeless persons, by a local education agency liaison as described under federal law, by a school social worker or counselor, or by an attorney who is representing the minor in a legal matter.

This bill adds a homeless child or homeless youth to the definition of "emancipated minor" for purposes of proving the supervised driving experience required to obtain an intermediate driver's license, and exempts emancipated minors from intermediate driver's license fees.

The bill specifies that no fee shall be required or collected from a homeless child, homeless youth, or unaccompanied youth to obtain his or her first nondriver identification card.

FEE OFFICES

This bill creates the "License Office Distribution Fund", which consists of certain moneys collected by motor vehicle registration fee offices, and used solely for the purposes specified in the bill. Beginning after December 31, 2024, but no later than February 15, 2025, equal quarterly disbursements will be made from the Fund to the fee offices awarded contracts under this section, except as provided in the bill.

The bill increases the following fees authorized to be charged by motor vehicle registration offices:

(1) A motor vehicle or trailer registration issued, renewed or transferred, increases from \$6 to \$9; and a license sold or biennially renewed, increases from \$12 to \$18;

(2) An application or transfer of title, increases from \$6 to \$9;

(3) An instruction permit, nondriver license, chauffeur's, operator's, or driver's license issued for a period of three years or less, increases from \$6 to \$9; and a license or instruction permit issued or renewed for a period exceeding three years, increases from \$12 to \$18; and

(4) A notice of lien processed, increases from \$6 to \$9.

From each of these fee increases collected by contract fee offices, \$1 will be remitted to the License Office Distribution Fund. Money distributed to this Fund will be held in trust for the entities awarded fee contracts and will not be considered state revenue. If a court issues a final judgment that this remitted money is state revenue, this subsection will be null and void.

The bill also prohibits a fee office contract from being awarded to any entity affiliated in any manner with a current employee of the Department of Revenue or with a former employee for the one-year period following a former employee's termination.

All fees authorized and collected by contract fee offices may be retained and used by the entity operating the contract fee office, and all fees authorized and collected by fee offices operated by the Department of Revenue will be considered state revenue. The authorized fees may be collected by all contract fee offices and must be collected by all offices operated by the Department of Revenue.

The bill also specifies that the application for a Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation emblem license plate and payment of the \$25 contribution may be made at the time of registration to the Director of the Department of Revenue, who must deposit the contribution to the credit of the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that waiving the fee for the license or non-license card may help these homeless youth to get the

assistance they need, such as traveling to work and school, or getting a bank account.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Perkins; Kids Win Missouri; Kaycee Nail, FosterAdopt Connect; and National Association of Social Workers Missouri Chapter.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they were there to verify that other driver's license requirements still have to be followed.

Testifying in person on the bill was Josh Shewmaker, Missouri Department of Revenue.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.