

HB 2078 -- DRIVER'S LICENSES

SPONSOR: Hubbard

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee On Urban Education Reform by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill prohibits the Department of Revenue from issuing a driver's license or a temporary instruction permit to any person 15 to 18 years of age if a public school district submits information to the department that the student is not in compliance with the eligibility standards. Every public school district must provide the department with a list of the students who are not in compliance at least once a semester.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's standards must ensure that a student continues to make educational progress. If an applicant does not achieve the department's standards, his or her driver's license test will be postponed until he or she demonstrates that the standards have been achieved.

Any person who is emancipated and does not meet the qualifications may request his or her district's school board to grant a waiver from the requirements. A school board will grant a waiver if it determines that having a license to operate a motor vehicle is in the best interest of the individual. Any person who drops out of school and earns a general educational development (GED) diploma will be granted, upon request, a waiver from these requirements.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in cooperation with the Department of Revenue, must establish a model or models for compliance.

Any person who knowingly submits false information to the Department of Revenue regarding these provisions will be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

The bill becomes effective January 1, 2011.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say the bill is a tool to help motivate and encourage teens to stay in school.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Hubbard, Quinn (7), and El-Amin.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this brings additional administrative procedures and cost for school administrations.

Testifying against the bill was Penney Rector, School Administrators Coalition.