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To: Senate Committee on Transportation
From: David Harper, Director, Division of Vehicles
Date: February 15, 2024
RE: SB 477

Thank you, Chairman Petersen, and members of the committee for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on SB 477. This bill would provide statutory authorization for the Division of Vehicles to begin the process of implementing mobile driver's license and identification cards in Kansas.

The 2023 Appropriations Senate Bill 25 provided expenditures shall be made by the Department of Revenue to modernize driver's licenses to allow electronic use as a digital driver's license that can be stored on mobile device applications: provided that such digital driver's license shall be compatible with federal transportation security administration checkpoints. SB 477 is step one in the process for the agency to begin to develop the road map towards the potential future implementation of digital credentials. SB 477 does not provide the Department of Revenue the authority to issue digital credentials. SB 477 does not change the current process for issuance of driver's license and identification credentials.

A mobile driver's license is a secure, digitized version of a physical driver's license or other state issued ID that is carried in an app on a smartphone. Mobile driver's licenses and IDs are intended to be a companion to a physical driver's license and not a replacement. The two primary reasons for implementing a mobile DL/ID program are security and convenience.

Security is the top concern when implementing mobile DL/ID. While mobile DL/ID programs vary by state, security for electronic credentials has been standardized. To obtain a mobile DL/ID in states where they are offered, the user must download a verified app, upload a front and back picture of their physical license or ID and also upload a selfie to verify their identity. Mobile DL/ID requires biometric access such as a fingerprint or face ID to access. This, combined with verification from the Division of Vehicles, ensure that the electronic credential is extraordinarily secure. This bill also contains language to ensure that personal data when using a mobile DL/ID cannot be collected without consent from the user.

Mobile DL/ID can be a more convenient option than physical credentials which can easily be lost or stolen, become broken or damaged, contain outdated information, offer too much information (including personally identifiable information), and can more easily be replicated by counterfeiters. Mobile DL/ID offers a safe and secure method for completely touchless transactions, selective information release, and more.

Currently, 11 states have active mobile driver's license and ID programs with another 21 states having passed laws authorizing the use of mobile driver's license and identification cards. In addition, the REAL ID Modernization Act passed in 2020 authorized the Department of Homeland Security to begin

accepting electronic transmission of user identity information. Passage of this bill will provide Kansas a foundation to become the next state to implement a mobile DL/ID program.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and the committee,

I stand for questions.