

**Testimony Before the
Kansas State Senate Transportation Committee
in Support of Senate Bill 181
Thursday, February 16th, 2017**

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee thank you very much for the opportunity to have a hearing and testify in support of Senate Bill 181.

Senate Bill 181 enacts new law. This bill would require the Courts to recall traffic warrants related to citations causing an individual's license has been suspended for failing to pay or comply with a traffic citation. This bill will go hand in hand with SB171 granting motorized bicycle licenses while the clock is run out on other statutory suspension or revocation sanctions and the citizen takes advantage of the opportunities of this act. The bill requires the courts to waive reinstatement and collection fees. For many these are simply a way to make their whole that much deeper. Single mothers and fathers of limited earnings capacity struggle to maintain their homes and moving the goal post is unfair and inequitable.

While there is a public policy justification for these assessments, we must balance it with the obvious quality of mercy and potential to grant them the ability to improve their circumstances and those of their families.

It also authorizes Courts to setup payment plans and issue credits against fines for community service as is in current statute.

The enhancement in the bill is a new credit for job skills classes of \$8.00 per hour.

This facet of the bill comes from a very successful effort of the City of Wichita. Copies of information about their amnesty program are attached.

As a Judge in Sedgwick County District Court I have presided over the Traffic Department for over half a decade. I see good people every day become ensnared by a mistake such as failing to comply with a traffic citation or DUI compound their circumstances as they go to work, ultimately having their privilege to drive revoked for years. Opportunities evaporate and employment becomes unsustainable. Families' financial capacities degrade to a level of poverty even homelessness that is difficult to understand. When their earnings decrease so does the revenue they generate.

Kansas is not alone with this issue and Federal Courts have intervened in other jurisdictions in an attempt to rectify their inequities. I am sure many on the Committee would agree being proactive is better than reactive.

Senate Bill 181 has the potential of allowing Kansans to have the hope of restoration of their driving privileges and enhance their employability.. It will expand the number of people able to go to work and not get in more trouble. Public safety will not be diminished by its enactment.

I urge the Committee to recommend the Bill out favorably.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip B. Journey
Haysville, Kansas

STARTS 12-4 - State and Workforce Alliance on Site

- Throughout December the City of Wichita Municipal Court will offer amnesty to residents whose driver's licenses have been suspended for failure to comply with a traffic citation.
- Failure to comply with a traffic citation by not appearing in court or paying citations results in a warrant being issued, license suspension, reinstatement fees being assessed, as well collection fees being applied.
- The City of Wichita is encouraging residents with suspended licenses for failure to comply to :
 1. Obtain a restricted license from the State of Kansas Division of Motor Vehicles
 - The restricted license program gives those suspended for failure to comply a restricted license for a period of 12 months. The restricted license allows drivers to drive to work, church, medical appointments, as well as court ordered appointments.
 - If during the 12 month restricted license period drivers resolve outstanding court obligations that resulted in suspension, their licenses will be reinstated.
- During the month of December the City of Wichita Municipal Court will assist residents that have been suspended for failure to comply with resolving outstanding court obligations by recalling warrants, waiving City reinstatement and collections fees, and offering payment plans to those unable to pay in full. Participants will essentially receive a second chance at complying with their traffic citation.
- Those that are unable to pay due to hardship or lack of employment will have the opportunity to perform community service at local agencies, or attend training at Workforce Alliance aimed at developing job skills and gaining employment. Those performing community service or Workforce Alliance programming will receive credit towards their outstanding fines.
- Amnesty on applies to suspensions resulting from failure to comply with City of Wichita Municipal Court obligations. Amnesty does not apply to suspension from other courts, non-traffic warrants, driver's license suspension resulting from DUI or Driving While Suspended, or revoked licenses. *and failure to maintain liability insurance.*

Workforce Alliance

Workshop List

For workshop descriptions, visit http://workforce-ks.com/services_type/free-workshops/

The workshops that occur during normal business hours last 2.5-3 hours, with the exception of Generations in the Workplace, which lasts 1.5-2.5 hours. The evening courses (after 5pm) last 2 hours. Consider assigning credit for each course depending on the time of day that it is offered (i.e. day or evening) and the content of the course (e.g. Intermediate Excel could be worth more than Generations in the Workplace), but with a greater emphasis on the content. I've provided suggested credit amounts, which assume a base rate of \$8/hour with a \$4 incentive for the more essential courses.

Workshop	Avg. Length	Suggested Credit
Basic Computers 101	3	\$28
Basic Computers 102	3	\$28
Getting the Most from Google	2.5	\$20
Intro to MS Word 2010	3	\$28
Intermediate MS Word 2010	3	\$28
Advanced MS Word 2010	2.5	\$28
Intro to MS Excel 2010	3	\$28
Intermediate MS Excel 2010	3	\$28
MS PowerPoint 2010	3	\$28
Resume Writing	3	\$28
Interview Success	3	\$28
Resume Writing / Interviewing Success	3	\$28
Master Resume	3	\$28
Targeted Resume	3	\$28
LinkedIn / Networking	2.5	\$20
Job Search Success	3	\$28
Social Media	2.5	\$20
Job Readiness 101	3	\$28
Elevator Pitch	3	\$24
Generations in the Workplace	2	\$16

Additional Suggested Credits: Completion of WA Intake Process (\$8-10), Computer research (\$8/hour), Individual appointments (\$8/hour), and milestones (e.g. certifications, submitted applications, interviews/job offers, and job acceptance)

ACP = Air Capital Room
 JAB = Jabara Room
 MCL = McConnell Room
 WST = Westport Room

November 2015 Workshops


 Happy Thanksgiving

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1		2 Job Readiness 101 9-12 MCL- Suzi	3 Intro to Word 9-12 MCL- Chez Interview Success 5-7 MCL- TraceAnn	4	5 Intermediate Word 1-4 MCL- Chez	6 Advanced Word 9:30- 12 MCL- Rachel	7
8		9 Basic PC 101 9-12 MCL- Sonja	10 PowerPoint 9-12 MCL- Chez How to Write a Resume 5-7 MCL- TraceAnn	11 Closed Veterans Day	12 Interview Success 9-12 MCL- TraceAnn Master Resume 1-4 MCL- Jill	13 Social Media 9:30-12 MCL- Sarah Resume/ Interview 12-2 (Butter)	14
15		16 Basic PC 102 9-12 MCL- Tina	17 Intro to Excel 9-12 MCL- Carrie Job Readiness 101 5-7 MCL- Lisa	18 Resume/ Interview 8:30 - 11:30 ACP- Angelique	19 Targeted Resume 9-12 MCL- Jesse Intermediate Excel 1-4 MCL- Carrie	20 Generations in the Workplace 9:30-12 MCL- Suzi	21
22		23 Basic PC 101 9-12 MCL (Spanish)- Diana	24	25 Job Search Success 9-12 MCL- Amanda	26 Closed Thanksgiving	27 Closed Day After Thanksgiving	28
29		30 Basic PC 102 9-12 MCL (Spanish)- Diana					

City of Wichita Municipal Court

DRIVER'S LICENSE AMNESTY AGREEMENT

NAME _____

Case number(s) _____

I am the defendant named above and do hereby acknowledge that I have been fined and/or ordered to pay court fines, fees and/or costs totaling \$_____. At my request to participate in the Driver's License Amnesty Program, I agree that I must pay all case(s) in full to receive the benefits of the Amnesty Program. I understand that failure to pay my case(s) in full, will result in all warrant and suspension fees being added back to my case(s). ~~Additionally a cost will be assessed on all case(s) as they will be referred to the State Setoff Program.~~

An initial payment of \$_____, must be paid prior to being placed on the Driver's License Amnesty Program.

The check box marked below determines the option I have chosen in which to complete my DL Amnesty.

I have received a restricted license from the DMV and I have one year from the date of issuance to complete all payments to the court. DMV restricted license issue date _____, 20_____. Full payment of all cases must be completed by _____, 2016.

I am not seeking a restricted license from the DMV, but I want to take care of my obligation and receive Amnesty. I must have my cases paid in full by December ____, 2016 to receive Amnesty.

❖ I understand that all payments must be receipted by City of Wichita Municipal Court before the end of my restricted license end date (12 months from issue date) or the end of the 12 month period in which I requested Amnesty.

❖ While on a payment plan I agree to report all changes of address, phone number and e-mail to the Court Clerk's Office within 48 hours of making the change.

I acknowledge receipt of this agreement and by my signature agree to be bound by its terms, this date.

Defendant Signature

Date

Address, City, State, Zip

Telephone

E mail address

Customer Service Specialist



Municipal Court
455 N Main
Wichita KS 67202-1667
316.268.4611
www.wichita.gov

Payments can be made on-line, by telephone, mail, at local Dillon's Store drop boxes or in-person.

- **To pay on-line, go to <https://www.wichita.gov/webcourts>** an additional \$1.00 convenience fee is added per transaction.
- **To pay by telephone, call (316) 268-4611.**
 - Use automated phone system anytime, and additional \$1.00 convenience fee is added per transaction.
 - Choose the Customer Service Clerk Office, Monday – Friday 08:00 am to 05:00 pm, excluding holidays.
- **To pay by mail, please use the address above.**
- **Drop boxes** are available at City Hall and most local Dillon's stores.
- **To pay in person** please see address listed above, Monday – Friday 07:00 am to 05:00 pm, excluding holidays.
- **DMV suspension information:** <https://www.kdor.org/DLStatus/login.aspx>
- **Participants should contact the DMV with any license questions, and/or wait for reinstatement notice.**

Allow at least five (5) business days for mail and drop box payments.

Please DO NOT mail or deposit cash in the drop box, also include any citation or case numbers on the front of checks and money orders.

Wichita Municipal Court

DL Amnesty Summary

Run Date: 1/4/2016 8:52:59AM

	PEOPLE	CASES	REDUCTION	PAYMENT	WARRANTS CLEARED
12/4/2015	210	326	\$-18048.47	\$14,279.86	57
12/7/2015	62	96	\$-8316.48	\$4,886.00	43
12/8/2015	38	75	\$-5751.19	\$1,799.00	21
12/9/2015	50	69	\$-3494.50	\$3,067.50	23
12/10/2015	34	48	\$-2156.16	\$2,804.59	9
12/11/2015	84	102	\$-4146.50	\$4,413.51	34
12/14/2015	64	84	\$-6297.50	\$5,185.00	16
12/15/2015	56	91	\$-7098.75	\$3,128.00	25
12/16/2015	58	83	\$-4343.25	\$7,563.24	25
12/17/2015	32	43	\$-3811.10	\$2,080.00	18
12/18/2015	76	116	\$-7476.42	\$6,318.25	40
12/21/2015	58	71	\$-3785.48	\$4,425.00	33
12/22/2015	54	72	\$-7153.34	\$4,244.82	29
12/23/2015	49	80	\$-6144.90	\$3,595.00	16
12/24/2015	29	32	\$-1613.98	\$1,292.00	13
12/28/2015	46	72	\$-5825.32	\$2,965.59	37
12/29/2015	83	135	\$-11576.29	\$5,004.00	32
12/30/2015	142	236	\$-23491.50	\$7,729.34	67
12/31/2015	38	65	\$-5572.88	\$4,053.25	16
	945	1,552	\$-136,104.01	\$88,833.95	554