

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
March 12, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. – Fort Totten Room

North Dakota Department of Transportation
Brad Schaffer, Director for Driver License

HB 1072

Good morning Chairman Clemens and members of the committee. I'm Brad Schaffer, Director for Driver License for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT). I'm here to provide information related to HB 1072. Thank you for your time today.

House Bill 1072 provides for the implementation of the Mobile Driver License through the use of any mobile device. Today a driver license is used for the following two primary goals, to confirm identity and to convey driving privileges. The mobile license allows the holder to share only what information is necessary. When verifying age, it is not necessary to share name, address, and the exact date of birth. It provides another level of privacy to citizens to control their personal information. The pandemic created another use case for a mobile license. If you are pulled over by law enforcement, you will remain in possession of the device and the officer can access your credentials wirelessly once you confirm to send the information. It also allows for a contactless verification of information at an airport. There is no more exchanging of a physical card that could spread an illness.

It allows the state to remotely manage a license by adding, updating, or revoking driving privileges and allows an option to quickly update an address and have a current credential without having to visit an office. If the phone is lost or stolen, the license can be deleted remotely before a new digital version is issued. It is also going to be less vulnerable to fraud and counterfeiting.

A Mobile DL brings with it several opportunities, such as establishing a wallet concept where multiple licenses could be carried simultaneously. These could be fishing or hunting licenses, or other items, such as identification of individuals authorized as responders during an emergency. A Mobile DL is not a replacement for the actual card, rather a supplement to it. A physical card will still be issued to the citizen.

The benefits of a Mobile DL include security, only accessed by the owner of the device through a pin or fingerprint. There is also a convenience knowing you always have your phone with you and freedom to leave your wallet at home.

There is a \$1.1m fiscal note with this bill for the software and ongoing maintenance. In the original fiscal note we requested spending authority to pay for the software and ongoing maintenance. Our original intent with this bill was to offer this convenience to the public in addition to their license without additional fees.

The bill and fiscal note were amended. The House Appropriations committee added a fee of \$5 to obtain the mobile DL. It also added a \$5 fee upon license renewal. These fees would be in addition to the current \$15 license fee.

This concludes my testimony. Thank You.