



JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

Senate Bill 572

February 12, 2014

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today on Senate Bill 572.

This bill has been drafted at the request of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Under current law, DOT can only reinstate a driver license (DL) or identification (ID) card for two years, regardless of how much time was left on the original product. The bill amends the state statutes to permit the reinstatement of a DL or ID card for the time period remaining on the original DL or ID card, instead of the mandatory two-year expiration. The bill specifies that a new license issued after cancellation expires on the expiration date of the prior license at the time of cancellation.

The bill will reduce the financial burden on customers by permitting the reinstatement of a DL or ID card for the time period remaining on the original product, and will extend the renewal period for many customers who currently are required to re-visit a DMV service center two years from reinstatement.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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DATE: February 12, 2014

TO: Members, Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs

The Honorable Jerry Petrowski, Chair

FROM: Tom Rhatican, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 572 (expiration of operator licenses issued after cancellation)

Chairman Petrowski and Committee Members:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of Wisconsin Senate Bill 572 (SB 572). SB 572 relates to the expiration of motor vehicle operators' licenses issued after cancellation.

Under current law, a person's operator's license may be cancelled for a variety of reasons; including, if the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) finds that the application for the license contained a material false statement or if a license has been altered and returned to WisDOT for cancellation. In addition, when a person reinstates their cancelled driver license (DL) or identification card (ID), the new product currently may only be reinstated with an expiration date of two years from the date of the applicant's next birthday.

SB 572 specifies that a DL or ID issued after cancellation expires on the expiration date of the prior DL or ID at the time of cancellation. This will allow the reinstatement to remain consistent with the expiration date on the previously cancelled product. The current renewal cycle for a driver license/identification card is 8 years.

Making this change will reduce the potential financial burden experienced by customers from not requiring them to visit a WisDOT Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) service center two years after the date of reinstatement and, subsequently, pay for a renewed product. Customers of DMV will also be able to remain on their regular renewal cycle, which is tied to the applicant's birth date and will be easier to remember. Additionally, by keeping customers on their standard renewal cycle, the annual renewal workflow for DMV will remain relatively consistent.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Nate Yahn, WisDOT legislative advisor, at (608) 266-1114.