

LIMITED-SCOPE AUDIT PROPOSAL

Financial Aspects of the Kansas Drivers' License Suspension and Revocation Process

SOURCE

This audit proposal was requested by Representative Gail Finney.

BACKGROUND

The Motor Vehicles Program within the Kansas Department of Revenue administers the state's vehicle laws. This includes vehicle titling and registration, motor vehicle dealer licensing, and drivers' licenses. Driver Services is a subprogram that administers laws regarding driver's license suspensions or revocations.

In Kansas, driving privileges can be suspended or revoked for a variety of reasons laid out in statute. Suspension means driving privileges are temporarily revoked. Violations that result in suspension include:

- Conviction of three (3) moving violations within a twelve-month period.
- Failing to appear for a court date or failure to respond to a traffic citation issued in Kansas or another state.
- Driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs or testing at an alcohol level of .08 or above.

Licenses can be reinstated after the suspension period is completed and any fees have been paid or required actions taken (e.g. installing an interlock device). More severe violations can result in revocation of driving privileges. Citizens cannot legally drive if they have a suspended or revoked license. Currently there are a total of 127,623 suspended and revoked drivers in Kansas. In 2020, there were 23,472 suspensions and revocations issued and 2,926 drivers who were fully reinstated.

Legislators have expressed concerns about the financial aspects of the state's process for suspended and revoked drivers' licenses, including how much it costs to collect fees and where those funds go.

AUDIT OBJECTIVES AND TENTATIVE METHODOLOGY

The audit objectives listed below are the questions we would answer through our audit work. The steps listed for each objective convey the type of work we would do. These may change as we learn more about the audit issues.

Objective 1: What are the financial aspects of Kansas' process for suspended and revoked licenses? Our tentative methodology would include the following:

- Work with Kansas Department of Revenue and court staff to determine how Kansas' process for suspended and revoked drivers' licenses works. This includes all the reasons licenses can be suspended or revoked (including non-driving offenses), how

long it takes to get them reinstated, demographics of those with suspended or revoked licenses, what the associated fees are, the requirements that drivers must complete, and success rates.

- Work with Department of Revenue, the courts and other stakeholders to determine financial aspects of the process. This includes fee revenues (how much is assessed each year and how much is collected), expenditures (costs to administer the process and collect fees), and what the fee funds are used for.
- Work with KDOR officials, court officials and other interested stakeholders to identify any problems they see in the process, and ways to improve it.

ESTIMATED RESOURCES

We estimate this audit would require **100 staff hours** to complete.