

LIMITED-SCOPE AUDIT PROPOSAL

How the Kansas Drivers' License Suspension and Revocation Process Impacts Kansans

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 regarding the impact of these driving restrictions on Kansas drivers including drivers' ability to get to work or school.

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's the impact of Kansas' process for suspended and revoked licenses on Kansas drivers?

- Work with Kansas Department of Revenue and court staff to determine 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, and the requirements that drivers must complete.

- Conduct a literature review to identify studies that have examined the financial and social impact on drivers who have suspended or revoked licenses. This may include things like the inability to get to work or school and may be affected by demographics such as age or location (e.g. urban or rural) of the driver. Determine the applicability of any study findings based on Kansas drivers' demographics.
- Talk with Kansas advocacy groups, the courts, or other interested stakeholders to gather their views of the program impacts on Kansans, based on the results of our work.

ESTIMATED RESOURCES

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