

Date of Hearing: April 27, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

AB 221 (Dababneh) – As Amended April 21, 2015

SUBJECT: Mobile application: driver's licenses and identification cards

SUMMARY: Directs the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to establish a pilot program to develop and test a mobile application that will display a digital driver's license (DDL). Specifies that the DDL pilot program must meet certain timeline requirements.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Authorizes DMV to issue a driver's license and/or an identification card to a person, if certain requirements are satisfied.
- 2) Requires a driver's license to provide specific information including the licensee's true full name, age, mailing address, a brief description, and an engraved picture of the licensee for identification purposes.
- 3) Specifies an identification card is required to include an engraved picture of the applicant and provide information to adequately describe the applicant.
- 4) At the federal level, the Real ID Act of 2005, includes provisions to improve the security or driver's licenses and identification cards.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: In December of 2014, the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced they would be developing an in-house pilot program (program) to test a smart phone application that could display a person's driver's license in digital form. The DDL program is designed to be carried out in three phases including the application design phase, the IDOT in-house testing phase, and ultimately, if feasible, full implementation. IDOT is currently operating under the first phase working with application developers, the Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and local law enforcement to develop an application that can be effectively used but also meet stringent security standards. IDOT representatives have indicated phase two is anticipated to roll out in late 2015 and will encompass a test group of in-house IDOT staff being provided a smart phone with the DDL application. This test group will then use the DDL for approximately six months as a supplement to their original driver's license for specific program purposes.

While several other states are considering the idea of a DDL pilot program, Iowa is the only state that is presently in the development phase of a mobile DDL application. As the first state to experiment with this technology, the IDOT established the program with an extended timeline to ensure that the development and testing of the DDL application incorporates the proper security features and to also address several implementation concerns that have arisen since IDOT's DDL announcement. These concerns surround how a mobile device will be handled by law enforcement during a traffic stop, how information will be stored on the application, and how the DDL will comply with federal Real ID requirements. Being that IDOT established the DDL pilot program under existing authority and not through legislation, IDOT will have the flexibility

to extend the pilot program's timeline or cancel testing if the abovementioned implementation issues remain unresolved.

AB 221 will require DMV, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to establish a DDL pilot program. Specifically, AB 221 sets up a timeline requiring DMV to first work on developing a mobile DDL application, second carry out in-house testing, and third roll out full implementation by January 1, 2018. Thus, AB 221 sets up a rational timeline to evaluate the feasibility of developing and issuing DDLs to applicants receiving a driver's license. The author notes, "people use their smart phones every day to read the news, shop online, and check their bank accounts. Using a tool that people are familiar with, like a mobile application, to store their primary means of identification will be a useful option for Californians."

Author's amendment: The author intends to amend the bill to delay reporting and full implementation requirements by six months and include a preliminary status update by DMV midway through the in-house testing period.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

PayPal

Opposition

None on file

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