

HB 2239 with HCA 1 -- NONCITIZEN DRIVERS LICENSE

SPONSOR: Lant

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 10 to 2.

This bill requires any driver's license issued to a person who is not a citizen of the United States to have a distinguishing mark on the front of the license that specifies the individual is a "noncitizen."

HCA #1: This amendment provides that all driver's licenses will have a distinguishing mark on the front of the license specifying the driver's country of citizenship.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is a necessary security measure with no discriminatory intent or impact.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lant and Kerry K Messer.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that requiring a mark distinguishing citizens from noncitizens on driver's licenses does nothing to combat illegal immigration, but instead marks those noncitizens authorized to work and live in Missouri with a Scarlet Letter.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Immigrant And Refugee Advocates; Missouri Association For Social Welfare; and Melissa Alper, National Council Of Jewish Women.