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February 7, 2020 10:00 A.M. State Capitol, Room 423

H. B. 1813 RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is providing **comments** on H.B. 1813 which authorizes the examiner of drivers to accept driver's license renewal applications from civilian employees and contractors of the federal Department of Defense more than six months prior to the date of expiration under certain circumstances.

The DOT feels that if the renewal period to apply for a driver's license is extended from six-months to up to two-years, that this should be allowed for all drivers and not just a special group of individuals that work for the Department of Defense.

However, further research should be done on the possible impact, of extending the renewal period, on customer wait times at the county offices as the crowd distribution would be affected. Currently, the renewal cycle is based on birth dates so that the renewals are more evenly distributed.

In addition, this amendment may result in a rush of driver's license holders to renew earlier than necessary due to the impending October 1, 2020, REAL ID deadline imposed by the Department of Homeland Security that affects acceptable Transportation Service Agency (TSA) travel documents. If this were to be implemented, we request that the implementation date start after October 1, 2020, to minimize the impact on those seeking REAL IDs.

It should also be noted that under the current driver's license card production contract, the driver's license card material is only contracted to have a minimum card life of eight years. If the original expiration dates are kept the same, and the person renews two years earlier, it may affect the life of the card material.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.