

House Committee on Transportation

January 29, 2025 Written Statement in Support of

HB 2031

On behalf of Johnson County Community College (JCCC), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 2031, "AN ACT concerning drivers' training; relating to motorcycle instructors; providing that driving school instructors may possess a motorcycle driver's license from any state; amending K.S.A. 8-276 and repealing the existing section."

JCCC is proud to serve as an approved Driving Training School for Motorcycle Training in the state of Kansas. Each year, our team of fifteen instructors trains approximately 500 students, equipping them with the skills to ride safely and earn their motorcycle endorsements. Ensuring the continued success of our program requires the ability to hire highly qualified and skilled instructors. Unfortunately, current geographical restrictions on instructor qualifications limit our hiring pool, making it challenging to recruit the most qualified candidates in the bistate Kansas City metro area.

Motorcycle instructors are certified through the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), a nationally recognized organization that promotes motorcycle safety and provides standardized training. The MSF Rider Coach Prep (RCP) course meets Kansas' requirements for instructor certification, offering consistent and rigorous training across state lines. Despite this, Kansas law currently restricts employment to instructors holding a Kansas driver's license, which has led JCCC to terminate exemplary employees and reject highly qualified candidates.

House Bill 2031 addresses this issue by allowing driving school instructors to possess a motorcycle driver's license from any state. This change will enable JCCC to expand its hiring pool for a position that is already difficult to fill, ensuring we can recruit skilled and personable instructors who are essential to our program's success.

We urge your support for this important legislation. House Bill 2031 will not only benefit JCCC but will also strengthen motorcycle training programs across the state, promoting safer roadways and better-trained riders. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to supporting workforce development and safety in Kansas.

Sincerely, Janel Duax Program Coordinator – Motorcycle Training Workforce Development and Continuing Education Johnson County Community College