



**Senate Judiciary Committee  
March 10, 2025  
House Bill 2228  
Testimony of the BIDS Legislative Committee  
Presented by Jennifer Roth  
Proponent**

Dear Chairperson Warren and Members of the Committee:

The BIDS Legislative Committee is happy to see the return of this proposal, which passed 120-0 in the House last year as HB 2522. We can attest to how much our clients need to have identification documents, and the consequences and missed opportunities of not having them. We support HB 2228, but offer a suggestion. As drafted, subsection (b) excludes people who are “physically or mentally unable to return to the workforce” or “released to the custody of another jurisdiction on a warrant or detainer” from the assistance provided by HB 2228.

These exclusions are problematic. First, people need identification for more than just employment reasons: they need it to apply for and receive services and benefits, get housing, enter certain spaces, get transportation, etc. Perhaps (b) was intended to apply only to (a)(3)? Even if that’s the case and an amendment is made, how will the Secretary determine whether someone is “unable to return to the workforce”? What if a person is destitute after release and must work to get by? They won’t have work-related documentation and materials under this bill.

Second, as to “released to the custody of another jurisdiction,” the holds on people in KDOC custody that we primarily see are for Kansas cases—situations such as a pending case or probation violation, or for a misdemeanor jail sentence that runs consecutively to the prison time. Often that person’s hold resolves shortly after arriving in the other county. For example, they might: (1) serve a short jail sentence (or file a successful motion and be paroled from their jail sentence shortly after they arrive) and be released, (2) be placed on probation and released, (3) serve a sanction and/or be discharged from probation and released, or (4) be released because their case was dismissed. People in those situations would be out of custody shortly after their release from prison, but without documentation to help make their re-entry successful. If the meaning of “another jurisdiction” is a different state, then the exclusion is less concerning.

Again, we are excited about HB 2228, but hope the Committee will consider these things when you work this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
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