House Committee on Education
Testimony in Support of SB 215

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Good afternoon Chair Huebert and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 215 regarding administration of various drivers' education programs.

The State Motorcycle Safety Program has been administered by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) for many years. Since 2005, KSDE has administered the program on behalf of the Board of Regents for participating community colleges as well as public and private secondary schools so that all courses, regardless of what entity was delivering the courses, continued to operate under the standards KSDE already had in place. Recently KSDE and the Department of Revenue began to explore the possibility of transferring administration of the community college portion of the Program to the Department of Revenue, Division of Motor Vehicles, which is the entity that collects and deposits the revenues that constitute the motorcycle safety fund as well as issuing drivers' licenses. Additionally, the Department of Revenue expressed interest in administering the Truck Driver Training Program, for which it also collects revenues.

The Board of Regents agrees that it makes sense for efficiency and consistency to centralize oversight of these driver safety training programs under one state agency. As introduced, SB 215 would allow KSDE and the Board to continue certifying their respective institutions' number of participating students, and to continue distributing motorcycle safety and truck driver training funds to those institutions, but the standards for and oversight of the participating community and technical college programs would be the responsibility of the Department of Revenue. I have communicated this proposal to the participating colleges, and they have expressed no concerns about this change.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.