



## DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

270 Washington St., S.W., Suite 1-156  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

**Greg S. Griffin**  
STATE AUDITOR  
(404) 656-2174

August 7, 2017

Honorable Pedro Marin  
State Representative  
611-A Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note  
House Bill 606 (LC 39 1591)

Dear Representative Marin:

This bill expands the authority of the Department of Driver's Services (DDS) to establish a driving card program for non-citizen residents unable to provide proof of lawful residency in the United States. Currently, non-citizen residents must provide proof of lawful status in the United States to obtain a driving license or identification card. Under the bill, non-citizen residents would need only to provide DDS with proof of residency in the state of Georgia (e.g., notarized copy of a lease agreement, child's school enrollment form, current utility bill). A non-citizen resident applying for a driving card would be required to complete a state driving exam, complete an approved driver education course, or possess a valid driver's license from another jurisdiction or state. Applicants would be required to pay an initial \$100 fee for a one-year card and a \$50 renewal fee each year.

Given the annual fees required by the bill and DDS's estimated costs of providing driving cards, revenue generated as a result of the bill is likely to exceed costs. DDS estimates that the cost of issuing a new driving card would be \$26, while a renewal card would be approximately \$11. These costs include printing of cards, postage, and other operational costs. As noted above, the fees for these services would be \$100 and \$50.

While the number of unauthorized non-citizen residents that would seek a driving card is unknown, a September 2015 Pew Charitable Trust report highlighted the experiences of eight states that had recently begun issuing driving cards to this population. Four states expected approximately 50% of the unauthorized population<sup>1</sup> to apply for a card while two states anticipated more than 90% to apply. In just under two years, Maryland issued licenses to 51% of the population estimated by

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<sup>1</sup> Based on 2014 unauthorized immigrant population estimates from the Migration Policy Institute.

Migration Policy Institute. By contrast, Nevada issued licenses to just 23% of the estimated population in the same time frame.

Considering Maryland and Nevada experiences and Georgia’s unauthorized population estimate of 377,000, Georgia could issue 94,250 to 188,500 driving cards in the first two years (Table 1). At these levels, initial cards and renewals would generate revenue of \$11.8 million to \$23.6 million in the first two years. Additional DDS expenditures would be \$3.0 million to \$5.9 million in those two years. The additional DDS expenditures would cover 22 to 44 new examiners, the printing of cards, postage, and other operational costs. After the first two to three years, it is likely that demand for new cards would decrease, resulting in lower revenue and expenditures. The estimate does not include capital costs for additional field offices or facilities that could be needed if the increased demand is concentrated in particular areas of the state.

**Table 1: Potential Number of Card Holders and DDS Staff, First Two Years**

	Low Estimate			High Estimate		
Revenue						
	Number of Cards	Price/ Card	Amount	Number of Cards	Price/ Card	Amount
<b>Year 1</b>						
New Cards	47,125	\$100	<u>\$4,712,500</u>	94,250	\$100	<u>\$9,425,000</u>
Year 1 Revenue			\$4,712,500			\$9,425,000
<b>Year 2</b>						
New Cards	47,125	\$100	\$4,712,500	94,250	\$100	\$9,425,000
Renewal Cards	47,125	\$50	<u>\$2,356,250</u>	94,250	\$50	<u>\$4,712,500</u>
Year 2 Revenue			\$7,068,750			\$14,137,500
<b>Two-Year Total</b>	<b>94,250</b>		<b>\$11,781,250</b>	<b>188,500</b>		<b>\$23,562,500</b>
Expenditures						
	Number of Cards	DDS Cost/ Card	Amount	Number of Cards	DDS Cost/ Card	Amount
<b>Year 1</b>						
New Cards	47,125	\$26	<u>\$1,225,250</u>	94,250	\$26	<u>\$2,450,000</u>
Year 1 Expense			\$1,225,250			\$2,450,000
<b>Year 2</b>						
New Cards	47,125	\$26	\$1,225,250	94,250	\$26	\$2,450,000
Renewal Cards	47,125	\$11	<u>\$518,375</u>	94,250	\$11	<u>\$1,036,750</u>
Year 2 Expense			\$1,743,625			\$3,487,250
<b>Two-Year Total</b>	<b>94,250</b>		<b>\$2,968,875</b>	<b>188,500</b>		<b>\$5,937,750</b>
Net Revenue						
			<b>\$8,812,375</b>			<b>\$17,624,750</b>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg S. Griffin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Greg S. Griffin  
State Auditor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Teresa A. MacCartney". The signature is cursive and spans across two lines.

Teresa A. MacCartney, Director  
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/TAM/sj