

# LB534 Foreign Service Officer Temporary License Extension

## **Bill Summary**

LB534 would add Foreign Service Officers of the U.S. Department of State to the existing process used by the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles for Armed Service personnel in granting an extension of their driver's license if it expires during their term of service abroad.

## **How it would work**

Currently, residents of Nebraska can renew a license online three times. For those serving our country overseas, their third cycle can come up while abroad, voiding their license. Since 1971, Nebraskans serving abroad with the Armed Forces, whether living on base with a U.S. compliant address, or off base with a foreign address, can apply to have their license extended throughout their term of service. Those eligible and their family members receive a 07-08 Form, a small card that attaches to their driver's license and extends their license until 60 days after the end of the term of service<sup>1</sup>. Without an extension, foreign governments will generally not accept an expired U.S. driver's license, or an International Driving Permit attached to an expired U.S. driver's license, when operating a motor vehicle.<sup>2</sup>

LB534 adds Foreign Service Officers to this statute, in order to mirror the success of the military exemption in helping armed services members living on and off base abroad maintain their drivers licenses during their service to our country.

## **Foreign Service and State Department Relevance to Nebraska**

Over 13,000 Americans currently serve in the Foreign Service, promoting peace, supporting prosperity, and protecting American citizens while advancing the interests of the U.S. abroad. Foreign Service Officers serve at embassies, consulates and diplomatic missions to establish political, economic, and diplomatic ties with foreign governments, while also assisting U.S. residents living and traveling abroad.

Diplomatic missions and the positive trade relations established by the State Department also have a direct impact on Nebraska's economy. Roughly 62,000 jobs in Nebraska are supported by goods exports, and nearly \$6.6 billion of Nebraska goods are exported annually<sup>3</sup>. As Governor Ricketts mentioned in his November 11, 2019 weekly column, strengthening trade relations with our foreign partners is critical to increasing Nebraska's exports and growing the state's economy<sup>4</sup>.

Because of the joint-goals of the Defense Department and State Department, the Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of the Foreign Policy Advisor program maintains Foreign Policy Advisors at STRATCOM, maintaining a permanent State Department presence in Nebraska.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dmv.nebraska.gov/dvr/military-exemption-process>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.aaa.com/vacation/idpfaq.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://2009-2017.state.gov/r/pa/map/219885.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <https://governor.nebraska.gov/press/growing-trade-between-nebraska-europe>

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