

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2113**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Hueso**

February 23, 2012

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An act relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2113, as introduced, Hueso. Vehicles: driver's licenses: enhanced driver's license.

Existing law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles, upon proper application, to issue driver's licenses and identification cards.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation that would authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles to enter into a memorandum of understanding with one or more federal agencies for the purposes of facilitating the crossing of the border and improving economic development between this state and Mexico and that would permit the department to issue an enhanced driver's license or identification card for the purposes of crossing the border between this state and Mexico.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Every year, there are over 45 million personal vehicle
- 4 passengers and 15 million pedestrians crossing into the state from
- 5 Mexico.

1 (b) Border crossers have an economic impact on the state,  
2 accounting annually for four billion five hundred thousand dollars  
3 (\$4,000,500,000) in economic benefits and 67,000 jobs.

4 (c) Border wait times during peak hours average 120 minutes  
5 on weekdays and even longer on weekends.

6 (d) More than 8 million trips are lost due to congestion each  
7 year in the San Ysidro Port of Entry, the busiest port of entry in  
8 the world.

9 (e) In the San Diego region alone, this translates into a revenue  
10 loss of nearly one billion three hundred thousand dollars  
11 (\$1,000,300,000), 3 million potential working hours, 35,000 jobs,  
12 and forty-two million dollars (\$42,000,000) in wages.

13 (f) It is estimated that border wait times will significantly  
14 increase in the future and an additional 15 minutes in border wait  
15 times will affect productivity in the binational border region by  
16 an additional one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) in costs and a  
17 loss of 134,000 jobs.

18 (g) Since border wait times impede international travel, trade,  
19 and commerce, the Legislature must address this problem to protect  
20 California's jobs and economy.

21 (h) After the 9/11 attacks, the federal government enacted the  
22 Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI; Public Law 110-53),  
23 to facilitate entry for United States citizens and legitimate foreign  
24 visitors, while strengthening United States border security, by  
25 requiring United States and Canadian travelers to present a passport  
26 or other documents that denote identity and citizenship when  
27 entering the United States. The documentation requirements of  
28 the WHTI went into effect in 2007 for air travel into the United  
29 States and in 2009 for land and sea travel.

30 (i) In addition to a passport and other documents, the federal  
31 government approved, for cross-border travel, the use of an  
32 enhanced driver's license (EDL), which is a standard state-issued  
33 driver's license that has been enhanced in process, technology,  
34 and security to denote identity and citizenship for purposes of  
35 entering the United States at the land and sea ports of entry. An  
36 EDL contains radio frequency identification (RFID) technology,  
37 which allows information contained in a wireless device or tag to  
38 be read from a distance, and eliminates the need to key in travelers,  
39 translating into a 60 percent faster processing than manual queries.

1 (j) Another advantage of an EDL is that it can be used in “Ready  
2 Lanes,” which were created by the United States Customs and  
3 Border Protection and are used as primary vehicle lanes dedicated  
4 to travelers who possess RFID-enabled travel documents.

5 (k) The use of an EDL as an RFID-enabled travel document is  
6 already in place in the states of Washington, New York, Michigan,  
7 and Vermont.

8 (l) The use of EDL’s in the state will open the way for the United  
9 States Customs and Border Protection to convert more vehicle  
10 lanes into ready lanes, which will decrease border wait times by  
11 an average of 30 minutes and thus provide a significant, long-term  
12 economic benefit to the state, while strengthening border security.

13 SEC. 2. The Legislature hereby declares its intent to enact  
14 subsequent legislation that would authorize the Department of  
15 Motor Vehicles to enter into a memorandum of understanding with  
16 one or more federal agencies for the purposes of facilitating the  
17 crossing of the border and improving economic development  
18 between this state and Mexico and would permit the department  
19 to issue an enhanced driver’s license or identification card for the  
20 purposes of crossing the border between this state and Mexico.