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HOUSE BILL NO. 519

INTRODUCED BY B. MITCHELL, K. BOGNER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF DIGITAL DRIVER'S LICENSES; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 61-5-116 AND 61-14-201, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 61-5-116, MCA, is amended to read:

**"61-5-116. License to be carried and exhibited on demand.** (1) A licensee must have the licensee's driver's license in the licensee's immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle and shall display the license upon demand of a justice of the peace, a city or municipal judge, a peace officer, a highway patrol officer, or a field deputy or inspector of the department. However, a person charged with violating this section may not be convicted if the person produces in court or the office of the arresting officer a driver's license issued to the person and valid at the time of the person's arrest.

(2) (a) Beginning September 1, 2025, a licensee may meet the requirements of subsection (1) by having a ~~digital OR HARD COPY~~state-issued original or digital version of the licensee's driver's license in the licensee's immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle and displaying the license upon demand.

(b) Only a ~~digital OR HARD COPY~~state-issued original or digital version of the licensee's driver's license issued and authorized by the department is sufficient to meet the requirements of this section."

**Section 2.** Section 61-14-201, MCA, is amended to read:

**"61-14-201. Rulemaking authority -- driver's licenses and identification cards.** (1) The department may adopt rules to administer and enforce the provisions of Title 61, chapter 5.

(2) The department may adopt rules governing acceptable methods of proof of identification, including name, date of birth, and authorized presence, that an individual must submit when applying for a