

Subject Driver's license suspensions
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Overview

This bill halts suspension of a person's driver's license under several specific situations and requires the Department of Public Safety and the court administrator to report data related to driver's license suspensions and related fines. It also enables driver's license reinstatement when the suspension had resulted from one of the situations where suspensions are no longer permitted.

Among the changes, license suspension would no longer be permitted for:

- failure to appear in court for a petty misdemeanor citation;
- failure to appear in court for a driving after suspension violation;
- failure to pay a fine or surcharge for the violation of a traffic or parking regulation;
- conviction for driving after suspension or driving after revocation; or
- a violation that would lead to a suspension (e.g., as a habitual violator) due to a prior driving after revocation conviction.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | Suspension of driver's license.
Prohibits the Department of Public Safety from suspending (or "re-suspending") a person's driver's license based on failure to appear in court after receiving a citation for (1) a petty misdemeanor, or (2) driving after suspension. Under current law, failure to appear in court in compliance with the terms of a citation is grounds for a license suspension. |
| 2 | Commissioner shall suspend.
Prohibits the suspension of a person's driver's license following a conviction for driving after suspension or driving after revocation. |

Section	Description
3	<p>Failure to pay fine.</p> <p>Forbids suspension of a person’s driver’s license based solely on a person’s failure to pay a traffic ticket, parking fine, or surcharge following a conviction for a vehicle operation or parking citation.</p>
4	<p>Offenses.</p> <p>Broadens a ban on suspending (or “re-suspending”) a driver’s license following from prior violations, so that it also prohibits suspensions that would result from a prior conviction for driving after revocation.</p>
5	<p>[Adds § 171.325] Driver’s license suspensions and revocations; reports.</p> <p>Requires the Department of Public Safety to provide an annual report with specified information on driver’s licenses issued, suspended, and revoked. Requires the state court administrator to report on charges and convictions for driving after suspension or revocation, as well as information on the payment of fines for all motor vehicle violations listed on the uniform fine schedule. Both reports are due by February 15.</p>
6	<p>Motor vehicle charges and conviction data; report.</p> <p>Requires the court administrator to collect, compile, and report data on charges and convictions for driving after suspension or revocation, and payment of fines for violations related to the operation of a motor vehicle.</p>
7	<p>Retroactive license reinstatement.</p> <p>Directs the Department of Public Safety to make an individual’s driver’s license eligible for reinstatement if that license is suspended based on (1) failure to appear in court, (2) a conviction for driving after suspension or revocation, (3) failure to pay a fee or fine, or (4) any combination of (1), (2), and (3). Directs the department to send notice by December 1, 2021, to individuals whose licenses are eligible for reinstatement. Requires individuals eligible for reinstatement to pay a \$20 reinstatement fee. Clarifies that suspensions, revocations, or cancellations for any other reason remain in effect.</p>



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