

License Suspension Bill



S.2014 An Act Relative to Motor Vehicle License Suspension

Summary

- 1 This bill repeals the current law that subjects individuals convicted of a non-violent drug offense to an automatic license suspension for up to five years and a license reinstatement fee of \$500, even if the offense does not involve motor vehicles in any way.
- 2 The bill would have no effect on license suspension penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, and removes the outdated state requirement that penalizes every drug offense with a license suspension, even for non-driving offenses.
- 3 Driving records currently include non-driving license suspensions. The bill prevents these checks, which harm the chances of employment for individuals convicted of a drug offense, and shields driving records revealing CORI information from public view.

The bill was sponsored by Senator Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester)



Senator Harriette L. Chandler

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Senate Majority Leader
Conference Committee Member



Senator William N. Brownsberger

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Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary



Senator Thomas M. McGee

@TomMcGeeDSC

Chair, Joint Committee on Transportation
Conference Committee Member



Senator Bruce E. Tarr

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Senate Minority Leader
Conference Committee Member

STATUS



Signed into Law

The Senate continues taking important steps towards reforming our criminal justice system by taking an ineffective and unfair law off the books that has made it harder for individuals who have paid for their mistakes to re-enter society.

RESPONSE



"This bill is a real life changer that will promote job security and dignity to those of us who have already paid for their mistakes."

—
- *Cassandra Bensahih, Director of Ex-Prisoners and Prisoners Organizing for Community Advancement*

"Adoption of this legislation provides those men and women impacted with greater access to job opportunities and substance abuse treatment, both of which are key ingredients to reducing recidivism and keeping our communities safe. It also allows them to more fully participate in the lives of their family, including driving children, spouses and elderly parents to medical appointments."

—
Peter Koutoujian, Middlesex County Sheriff



INFOGRAPHICS

WHY?



“The license suspension law is as ineffective as it is harsh. The law should be repealed so that those convicted of drug offenses have a better chance to rebuild their lives.”



“A suspended license is a high hurdle for some to clear. It makes it difficult to get to a job, get to drug counseling appointments or pick up the kids from school.”