

HB 921/SB 968

ISSUE

If you can't afford to make a fine or fee payment, Florida takes your license — and, with it, your freedom to drive and work. Losing your license makes everyday tasks like getting to work, caring for your children or buying groceries almost impossible.

Why this policy does not work:

- License suspensions make it far less likely that people will be able to pay their debts.
- People are forced to drive without a legal license — and often without insurance — solely because of debts.

SOLUTION

- Stop suspending licenses for unpaid court fines and fees. This will help Floridians obtain employment, access healthcare, care for their families and contribute to the Florida economy.

HB 921/SB 968:

Sponsored by Representative Beltran and Senator Burgess

- Ends license suspensions for failure to pay criminal and traffic court fines and fees except for those offenses listed in 318.17 (1)-(4).
- Gives judges discretion to waive, reduce or convert fines and fees to community service.
- Clarifies a single \$60 reinstatement fee to be paid to reinstate a license after suspension.
- Reinstates the 716,000+ licenses currently suspended for failure to pay after payment of a single reinstatement fee, a potential \$42,960,000+ in revenue for the state.

This bill does not impact license suspensions for dangerous driving offenses, restitution, child support or the responsibility of individuals to pay their court fines and fees.

This bill increases the likelihood of restitution being paid to victims and would increase collections of fines and fees by the Clerks of Court due to the ability of people to work.

22 STATES HAVE REFORMED DEBT-BASED DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENSIONS

Since 2017, 22 states across the country including - **Texas, Utah, Mississippi, Idaho, Montana, and West Virginia** - have all stopped or significantly curbed debt-based license suspensions. The list is growing each year and now is the time for Florida to join the list.

LEARN MORE:

Contact the Fines and Fees Justice Center Florida State Director, Sarah Couture at scouture@ffjc.us or visit ffjc.us/florida for more information and resources.