

General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 7161

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 5813



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by: (TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS' LICENSES FOR FAILURE TO PAY FINES OR FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR A SCHEDULED COURT APPEARANCE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER INTO A PAYMENT INSTALLMENT PLAN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 14-111 of the general statutes is
- 2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
- 3 1, 2025):
- 4 (a) (1) For the purposes of this subsection, "moving violation" means
- 5 <u>a violation of subsection (d) of section 14-100a, section 14-212d, 14-218a</u>
- 6 or 14-219, subsection (a) of section 14-220, section 14-222a, subsection (a)
- 7 of section 14-223, subsection (c) of section 14-224, sections 14-230 to 14-
- 8 238a, inclusive, 14-239 to 14-245, inclusive, 14-246a to 14-247a, inclusive,
- 9 section 14-249, 14-250, 14-277 or 14-279, subsection (a) of section 14-281a,
- 10 section 14-283, 14-289b, 14-296aa, 14-298 or 14-299, subsection (c) or (d)
- 11 of section 14-300 or sections 14-301 to 14-304, inclusive.
- 12 [No] (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no
- 13 provision of this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the

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commissioner from suspending or revoking any registration or any operator's license issued under the provisions of any statute relating to motor vehicles, or from suspending the right of any person to operate a motor vehicle in this state, or from suspending or revoking the right of any nonresident to operate, or the right to any operation of, any motor vehicle within this state, for any cause that [he] the commissioner deems sufficient, with or without a hearing. Whenever any certificate of registration is suspended or revoked, all evidence of the same shall be delivered forthwith to the commissioner or to any person authorized by the commissioner to receive the same, and the commissioner or any person authorized by the commissioner may seize such certificate of registration and all evidence of the same. Except as otherwise provided by law, the commissioner may cancel any such suspension or revocation and may return such certificate of registration or restore the operator's license either with or without an additional fee, provided no certificate of registration or operator's license which has been suspended for any definite term, except as provided in subsection (k) of this section, shall be returned or restored until the term of suspension has been completed. Any appeal taken from the action of the commissioner shall not act as a stay of suspension or revocation except with [his] the commissioner's consent. No service of process shall be necessary in connection with any of the prescribed activities of the commissioner, but a notice forwarded by bulk certified mail to the address of the person registered as owner or operator of any motor vehicle as shown by the records of the commissioner shall be sufficient notice to such person that the certificate of registration or operator's license is revoked or under suspension.

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(3) The commissioner shall not suspend a person's operator's license solely for failure to pay any fine, fee or charge associated with a motor vehicle infraction or violation or failure to appear for any scheduled court appearance with regard to any motor vehicle infraction or violation, unless the infraction or violation is a moving violation.

Sec. 2. Section 51-164n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

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(a) There shall be a Centralized Infractions Bureau of the Superior Court to handle payments or pleas of not guilty with respect to the commission of an infraction under any provision of the general statutes or a violation set forth in subsection (b) of this section. Except as provided in section 51-1640, any (1) person who is alleged to have committed an infraction or a violation under subsection (b) of this section may plead not guilty or pay the established fine and any additional fee or cost for the infraction or such violation, and (2) person who is alleged to have committed a motor vehicle infraction or violation under subsection (b) of this section may plead nolo contendere and enter into an installment payment plan for such established fine and any additional fee or cost.

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59 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any person 60 who is alleged to have committed (1) a violation under the provisions of 61 section 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 2-71h, 4b-13, 7-13, 7-14, 7-35 or 7-41, subsection (c) of section 7-66, section 7-83, 7-147h, 7-148, 7-283, 7-325, 7-393, 8-12, 8-25, 62 63 8-27, 9-63, 9-322, 9-350, 10-185, 10-193, 10-197, 10-198, 10-230, 10-251, 10-64 254, 10a-35, 12-52, 12-54, 12-129b or 12-170aa, subdivision (3) of 65 subsection (e) of section 12-286, section 12-286a, 12-292, 12-314b or 12-66 326g, subdivision (4) of section 12-408, subdivision (3), (5) or (6) of 67 section 12-411, section 12-435c, 12-476a, 12-476b, 12-476c, 12-487,13a-68 26b, 13a-71, 13a-107, 13a-113, 13a-114, 13a-115, 13a-117b, 13a-123, 13a-69 124, 13a-139, 13a-140, 13a-143b, 13a-253, 13a-263 or 13b-39f, subsection 70 (f) of section 13b-42, section 13b-90 or 13b-100, subsection (a) of section 71 13b-108, section 13b-221 or 13b-292, subsection (a) or (b) of section 13b-72 324, section 13b-336, 13b-337, 13b-338, 13b-410a, 13b-410b or 13b-410c, 73 subsection (a), (b) or (c) of section 13b-412, section 13b-414 or 14-4, 74 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-12, subsection (d) of 75 section 14-12, subsection (f) of section 14-12a, subsection (a) of section 76 14-15a, section 14-16c, 14-20a or 14-27a, subsection (f) of section 14-34a, 77 subsection (d) of section 14-35, section 14-43, 14-44j, 14-49, 14-50a, 14-58 78 or 14-62a, subsection (b) of section 14-66, section 14-66a or 14-67a, 79 subsection (g) of section 14-80, subsection (f) or (i) of section 14-80h,

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80 section 14-97a or 14-98, subsection (a), (b) or (d) of section 14-100a, 81 section 14-100b, 14-103a, 14-106a, 14-106c, 14-145a, 14-146, 14-152, 14-82 153, 14-161 or 14-163b, subsection (f) of section 14-164i, section 14-213b 83 or 14-219, subdivision (1) of section 14-223a, subsection (d) of section 14-84 224, section 14-240, 14-250, 14-253a, 14-261a, 14-262, 14-264, 14-266, 14-85 267a, 14-269, 14-270, 14-272b, 14-274, 14-275 or 14-275a, subsection (c) of 86 section 14-275c, section 14-276, subsection (a) or (b) of section 14-277, 87 section 14-278, 14-279 or 14-280, subsection (b), (e) or (h) of section 14-88 283, section 14-283d, 14-283e, 14-283f, 14-283g, 14-291, 14-293b, 14-296aa, 89 14-298a, 14-300, 14-300d, 14-300f, 14-319, 14-320, 14-321, 14-325a, 14-326, 90 14-330 or 14-332a, subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of section 14-386a, section 91 15-15e, 15-25 or 15-33, subdivision (1) of section 15-97, subsection (a) of 92 section 15-115, section 16-15, 16-16, 16-44, 16-256e, 16-278 or 16a-15, 93 subsection (a) of section 16a-21, section 16a-22, subsection (a) or (b) of 94 section 16a-22h, section 16a-106, 17a-24, 17a-145, 17a-149 or 17a-152, 95 subsection (b) of section 17a-227, section 17a-465, subsection (c) of 96 section 17a-488, section 17b-124, 17b-131, 17b-137, 19a-33, 19a-39 or 19a-97 87, subsection (b) of section 19a-87a, section 19a-91, 19a-102a, 19a-102b, 98 19a-105, 19a-107, 19a-113, 19a-215, 19a-216a, 19a-219, 19a-222, 19a-224, 99 19a-286, 19a-287, 19a-297, 19a-301, 19a-309, 19a-335, 19a-336, 19a-338, 100 19a-339, 19a-340, 19a-425, 19a-442, 19a-502, 19a-565, 20-7a, 20-14, 20-101 153a, 20-158, 20-231, 20-233, 20-249, 20-257, 20-265, 20-324e, 20-329c or 102 20-329g, subsection (b) of section 20-334, section 20-341*l*, 20-366, 20-482, 103 20-597, 20-608, 20-610, 20-623, 21-1, 21-38, 21-39, 21-43, 21-47, 21-48 or 104 21-63, subsection (d) of section 21-71, section 21-76a or 21-100, 105 subsection (c) of section 21a-2, subdivision (1) of section 21a-19, section 106 21a-20 or 21a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-25, 107 section 21a-26, subsection (a) of section 21a-37, section 21a-46, 21a-61, 108 21a-63, 21a-70b or 21a-77, subsection (b) or (c) of section 21a-79, section 109 21a-85 or 21a-154, subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-159, section 21a-278b, subsection (c), (d) or (e) of section 21a-279a, section 110 111 21a-415a, 21a-421eee, 21a-421fff or 21a-421hhh, subsection (a) of section 112 21a-430, section 22-12b, 22-13, 22-14, 22-15, 22-16, 22-26g, 22-30, 22-34, 22-35, 22-36, 22-38, 22-39, 22-39f, 22-49, 22-54, 22-61j or 22-61l, 113

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114 subdivision (1) of subsection (n) of section 22-61l, subsection (f) of 115 section 22-61m, subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of section 22-61m, 116 section 22-84, 22-89, 22-90, 22-96, 22-98, 22-99, 22-100 or 22-1110, 117 subsection (d) of section 22-118l, section 22-167, subsection (c) of section 22-277, section 22-278, 22-279, 22-280a, 22-318a, 22-320h, 22-324a or 22-118 119 326, subsection (b), subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (e) or subsection 120 (g) of section 22-344, subsection (a) or (b) of section 22-344b, subsection 121 (d) of section 22-344d, section 22-344f, 22-350a, 22-354, 22-359, 22-366, 122 22-391, 22-413, 22-414, 22-415, 22-415c, 22a-66a or 22a-246, subsection (a) 123 of section 22a-250, section 22a-256g, subsection (e) of section 22a-256h, 124 section 22a-363 or 22a-381d, subsections (c) and (d) of section 22a-381e, 125 section 22a-449, 22a-450, 22a-461, 23-4b, 23-38, 23-45, 23-46 or 23-61b, 126 subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 23-65, section 25-37 or 25-40, subsection (a) of section 25-43, section 25-43d, 25-135, 26-127 128 18, 26-19, 26-21, 26-31, 26-40, 26-40a, 26-42, 26-43, 26-49, 26-54, 26-55, 26-129 56, 26-58 or 26-59, subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 26-61, section 26-64, subdivision (1) of section 26-76, section 26-79, 26-87, 26-89, 130 131 26-91, 26-94, 26-97, 26-98, 26-104, 26-105, 26-107, 26-114a, 26-117, 132 subsection (b) of section 26-127, 26-128, 26-128a, 26-131, 26-132, 26-138, 133 26-139 or 26-141, subdivision (1) of section 26-186, section 26-207, 26-215, 134 26-217 or 26-224a, subdivision (1) of section 26-226, section 26-227, 26-135 230, 26-231, 26-232, 26-244, 26-257a, 26-260, 26-276, 26-280, 26-284, 26-136 285, 26-286, 26-287, 26-288, 26-290, 26-291a, 26-292, 26-294, 27-107, 28-13, 137 29-6a, 29-16, 29-17, 29-25, 29-1430, 29-143z or 29-156a, subsection (b), (d), 138 (e), (g) or (h) of section 29-161q, section 29-161v or 29-161z, subdivision 139 (1) of section 29-198, section 29-210, 29-243 or 29-277, subsection (c) of 140 section 29-291c, section 29-316 or 29-318, subsection (b) of section 29-141 335a, section 29-381, 30-19f, 30-48a or 30-86a, subsection (b) of section 142 30-89, subsection (c) or (d) of section 30-117, section 31-3, 31-10, 31-11, 143 31-12, 31-13, 31-14, 31-15, 31-16, 31-18, 31-23, 31-24, 31-25, 31-32, 31-36, 144 31-47 or 31-48, subsection (b) of section 31-48b, section 31-51, 31-51g, 31-145 52, 31-52a, 31-53 or 31-54, subsection (a) or (c) of section 31-69, section 146 31-70, 31-74, 31-75, 31-76, 31-76a, 31-89b or 31-134, subsection (i) of 147 section 31-273, section 31-288, 31-348, 33-624, 33-1017, 34-13d or 34-412,

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148 subdivision (1) of section 35-20, subsection (a) of section 36a-57, 149 subsection (b) of section 36a-665, section 36a-699, 36a-739, 36a-787, 38a-150 2 or 38a-140, subsection (a) or (b) of section 38a-278, section 38a-479qq, 151 38a-479rr, 38a-506, 38a-548, 38a-626, 38a-680, 38a-713, 38a-733, 38a-764, 152 38a-786, 38a-828, 38a-829, 38a-885, 42-133hh, 42-230, 42-470 or 42-480, 153 subsection (a) or (c) of section 43-16q, section 45a-283, 45a-450, 45a-634 154 or 45a-658, subdivision (13) or (14) of section 46a-54, section 46a-59, 46a-155 81b, 46b-22, 46b-24, 46b-34, 46b-38d, 47-34a, 47-47 or 47-53, subsection 156 (i) of section 47a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (k) of section 47a-21, section 49-2a, 49-8a, 49-16, 52-143 or 52-289, subsection (i) of section 52-157 158 362, section 53-133, 53-199, 53-212a, 53-249a, 53-252, 53-264, 53-280, 53-159 290a, 53-302a, 53-303e, 53-311a, 53-314, 53-321, 53-322, 53-323 or 53-331, 160 subsection (b) of section 53-343a, section 53-344, subsection (b) or (c) of 161 section 53-344b, subsection (b) of section 53-345a, section 53-377, 53-422 162 or 53-450 or subsection (i) of section 54-36a, or (2) a violation under the 163 provisions of chapter 268, or (3) a violation of any regulation adopted in 164 accordance with the provisions of section 12-484, 12-487 or 13b-410, or 165 (4) a violation of any ordinance, regulation or bylaw of any town, city or borough, except violations of building codes and the health code, for 166 167 which the penalty exceeds ninety dollars but does not exceed two 168 hundred fifty dollars, unless such town, city or borough has established 169 a payment and hearing procedure for such violation pursuant to section 170 7-152c, shall follow the procedures set forth in this section.

(c) (1) If any person who is alleged to have committed an infraction or any violation specified in subsection (b) of this section elects to pay the fine and any additional fees or costs established for such infraction or violation, [he] such person shall send payment, by mail or otherwise, to the Centralized Infractions Bureau, made payable to the "clerk of the Superior Court".

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(2) If any person who (A) is alleged to have committed a motor vehicle infraction or violation specified in subsection (b) of this section, (B) is indigent or otherwise unable to pay the fine and additional fees or costs in full for such infraction or violation, and (C) intends to enter a

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181 plea of nolo contendere, such person shall send a request for trial to be 182 found indigent and request to enter into an installment payment plan to the Centralized Infractions Bureau. The bureau shall send such requests 183 to the clerk of the geographical area where the trial is to be conducted. 184 185 Such clerk shall advise such person of a date certain for a trial. At such 186 trial, if the court finds such person is indigent, the court shall permit 187 such person to enter into an installment payment plan at no charge for 188 the payment for such fine and additional fees or costs. Any such 189 installment payment plan shall be comprised of all fines and additional 190 fees or costs and shall consist of monthly payments that do not exceed 191 five per cent of such person's monthly net income. A court may accept 192 payments higher than the amount established pursuant to the 193 installment payment plan. A court may require any such person 194 entering into an installment payment plan to appear periodically before 195 such court, but not more frequently than annually, to assess such person's financial circumstances and adjust the terms of the installment 196 197 payment plan if such person's financial circumstances have changed. A 198 person who enters into an installment payment plan and experiences a 199 reduction in income may petition the court at any time to seek a 200 reduction in the monthly payment. The court may reduce or waive the amount of any fine or additional fees or costs if the court determines 201 202 that the interests of justice require such reduction or waiver.

(3) Such payment or agreement to enter into an installment payment plan shall be considered a plea of nolo contendere and shall be inadmissible in any proceeding, civil or criminal, to establish the conduct of the person, provided the provisions of this section and section 51-164m shall not affect the application of any administrative sanctions by either the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection authorized under title 26 or the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles authorized under title 14, except that no points shall be assessed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles against the operator's license of such person for such infraction or violation.

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(4) The Judicial Department shall provide notice of the provisions of

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this subsection, including the ability to enter into an installment payment plan, to law enforcement agencies and direct each law enforcement agency issuing a complaint to provide such notice to any person who is alleged to have committed a motor vehicle infraction or violation at the time a complaint alleging such conduct is issued to such person. The Judicial Department shall publish information about the availability of installment payment plans on the department's Internet web site and at each court where a trial pursuant to this section may be conducted.

- (d) If the person elects to plead not guilty, [he] <u>such person</u> shall send the plea of not guilty to the Centralized Infractions Bureau. The bureau shall send such plea and request for trial to the clerk of the geographical area where the trial is to be conducted. Such clerk shall advise such person of a date certain for a hearing.
- (e) A summons for the commission of an infraction or of a violation specified in subsection (b) of this section shall not be deemed to be an arrest and the commission of an infraction or of any such violation shall not be deemed to be an offense within the meaning of section 53a-24.
- (f) The provisions of this section shall apply to the alleged commission of an infraction or a violation specified in subsection (b) of this section by a minor but, in a case involving a minor, a parent or guardian shall sign any plea of nolo contendere or of not guilty on any summons form issued in connection with the matter.
- (g) If a person elects to plead not guilty and send the plea of not guilty to the Centralized Infractions Bureau in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, such person may subsequently, at a proceeding at Superior Court, reach an agreement with the prosecutorial official as to the amount of the fine to be paid and elect to pay such fine without appearing before a judicial authority. As a part of any such agreement, the prosecutorial official may require such person to attend a motor vehicle operator safety course that addresses the nature of such

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infraction or violation and that is offered or approved by the Chief State's Attorney. The amount of the fine agreed upon shall not exceed the amount of the fine established for such infraction or violation. Any person who pays a fine pursuant to this subsection shall also pay any additional fees or costs established for such infraction or violation. Such person shall make such payment to the clerk of the Superior Court and such payment shall be considered a plea of nolo contendere and shall be inadmissible in any proceeding, civil or criminal, to establish the conduct of such person, provided the provisions of this section and section 51-164m shall not affect the application of any administrative sanctions by either the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection authorized under title 26 or the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles authorized under title 14. A plea of nolo contendere pursuant to this subsection does not have to be submitted in writing. Nothing in this subsection shall affect the right of a person who is alleged to have committed an infraction or any violation specified in subsection (b) of this section to plead not guilty and request a trial before a judicial authority.

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(h) In any trial for the alleged commission of an infraction, the practice, procedure, rules of evidence and burden of proof applicable in criminal proceedings shall apply. Any person found guilty at the trial or upon a plea shall be guilty of the commission of an infraction and shall be fined not less than thirty-five dollars or more than ninety dollars or, if the infraction is for a violation of any provision of title 14, not less than fifty dollars or more than ninety dollars.

(i) In any trial for the alleged commission of a violation specified in subsection (b) of this section, the practice, procedure, rules of evidence and burden of proof applicable in criminal proceedings shall apply, except that in any trial for the alleged commission of a violation under subsection (a) of section 21a-279a, the burden of proof shall be by the preponderance of the evidence. Any person found guilty at the trial or upon a plea shall be guilty of the commission of a violation and shall be fined not more than the statutory amount applicable to such violation.

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Sec. 3. Section 14-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

- (a) Any person who has been arrested by an officer for a violation of any provision of any statute relating to motor vehicles may be released, upon [his] such person's own recognizance, by such officer in [his] such officer's discretion, unless such violation is of a provision relating to driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or using a motor vehicle without permission of the owner or evading responsibility for personal injury or property damage or involves the death or serious injury of another, in which cases such person shall not be released on [his] such person's own recognizance.
- (b) (1) If any person so arrested or summoned wilfully fails to appear for any scheduled court appearance at the time and place assigned, or if any person charged with an infraction involving the use of a motor vehicle, or with a motor vehicle violation specified in section 51-164n, as amended by this act, wilfully fails to comply with remote events and deadlines set by the court for infractions and violations specified in section 51-164n, as amended by this act, or fails to pay the fine and any additional fee imposed or send in [his] such person's plea of not guilty by the answer date or wilfully fails to appear for any scheduled court appearance which may be required, or if any person fails to pay any surcharge imposed under section 13b-70, any fee imposed under section 51-56a or any cost imposed under section 54-143 or 54-143a, [a report of such failure shall be sent to the commissioner by] the court having jurisdiction shall submit a report of such failure to the commissioner.
- (2) Prior to submitting the report described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court having jurisdiction shall notify any person who fails to pay any fine, fee or charge associated with a motor vehicle infraction or violation, but not a moving violation, as defined in section 14-111, as amended by this act, or any person who wilfully fails to appear for any scheduled court appearance for any such motor vehicle infraction or violation, but not a moving violation, that such person's

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motor vehicle operator's license will be suspended because of such failure unless such person (A) pays such fine, fee or charge or schedules a new court appearance not later than thirty days after the date of such notice, and (B) subsequently appears for such new court appearance.

Such notice shall also include information about the ability to enter into an installment payment plan for such fine, fee or charge pursuant to the provisions of section 51-164n, as amended by this act.

- (3) The provisions of this section shall be extended to any nonresident owner or operator of a motor vehicle residing in any state, the proper authorities of which agree with the commissioner to revoke, until personal appearance to answer the charge against [him, his] such person, such person's motor vehicle registration certificate or operator's license, upon [his] such person's failure to appear for any scheduled court appearance. Any infractions or violations, for which a report of failure to appear has been sent to the commissioner under this subsection, that have not otherwise been disposed of shall be dismissed by operation of law seven years after such report was sent.
- (c) The commissioner may enter into reciprocal agreements with the proper authorities of other states, which agreements may include provisions for the suspension or revocation of licenses and registrations of residents and nonresidents who fail to appear for trial at the time and place assigned.
 - (d) Any judgment under this section shall be opened upon the payment to the clerk of the Superior Court of a fee of forty dollars. Such filing fee may be waived by the court.
- (e) In addition, the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall apply to sections 29-322, 29-349 and 29-351.

Sec. 4. (*Effective October 1*, 2025) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in conjunction with the Centralized Infractions Bureau, shall develop and conduct an awareness campaign to educate the public concerning (1) the importance of responding and how to respond to motor vehicle

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infractions and violations in a timely manner, (2) the consequences of failing to pay the fines, fees or costs associated with a motor vehicle infraction or violation or failing to appear for a scheduled court appearance, and (3) the process to enter into an installment payment plan to pay the fines, fees or costs associated with a motor vehicle infraction or violation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following		
sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-111(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	51-164n
Sec. 3	October 1, 2025	14-140
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

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To (1) limit the authority to suspend a motor vehicle operator license for failing to pay fines, fees or other charges or failing to appear for any scheduled court appearance for certain violations, (2) allow persons charged with motor vehicle infractions and violations to enter into installment payment plans, and (3) require a public awareness campaign concerning the importance of responding to motor vehicle infractions and violations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

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