



May 3, 2013

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

The City of Eugene supports HB 3047, specifically the goal of affording the court the ability to re-suspend a defendant's driver's license for non-compliance with imposed court sanctions. Many courts use the license reinstatement and re-suspending process to give offenders an opportunity to drive with a valid driver's license, as long as the offender is willing to stay in compliance with court orders. HB 3047 allows the court to work with their community, providing the option to get their license reinstated while they are in compliance with the court's order.

A court sanction, as a result of a traffic violation, is fulfilled when the offender pays the fine imposed by the court or completes the terms of the judgment. When the court agrees to give the defendant terms for payment, an additional sanction is sometimes required to ensure compliance and improve public safety. Courts often use the ability to suspend a defendant's driver's license as an escalated action on a case where the offender fails to comply or pay a fine. In the past a judge has had the flexibility to reinstate a defendant's license while they remained in compliance with the terms of their agreement and subsequently re-suspend in the event of a default on that agreement.

This bill restores a process Oregon courts have used for many decades allowing DMV to suspend for failure to comply based on a judge's order, reinstate as ordered by the judge and again suspend driving privileges if necessary for failure to comply.

The City of Eugene along with courts statewide will benefit from this bill in that it allows the court to work with offenders to make payment arrangements and to reinstate their driving privileges which has been proven as the single most effective tool for gaining compliance on judgments for traffic offenses.

The only modification the City of Eugene asks of the committee is in relation to the start date of measuring the timeframe. In section 3 the bill indicates the clock starts counting from offense date; the City of Eugene is in support of changing this to indicate the time begins from the conviction date.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Stone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Stone  
Court Administrator  
Eugene Municipal Court