



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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DATE: June 24, 2020

TO: Joint Committee on the First Special Session of 2020

FROM: Lindsay Baker, Assistant Director
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SUBJECT: House Bill 4210 – Elimination of Driver License Suspension for Failure to Comply

INTRODUCTION

Current Oregon law requires specific action when a court notifies ODOT-DMV of a person's failure to pay a fine imposed. This process of license suspension, revocation, and reinstatement is managed through partnership between the court systems and ODOT-DMV.

DISCUSSION

Current law allows a court to suspend or place restrictions on a person's driving privileges for failure to pay a fine related to a traffic infraction (known as Failure to Comply or FTC). Once notified by the court, ODOT-DMV issues a driver license Suspension Notice, with the suspension automatically effective 60 days after the Suspension Notice is issued. If the person makes acceptable arrangements with the court (*i.e.* full payment or entering into a payment plan) during that 60 day period, the court notifies ODOT-DMV and the impending suspension is rescinded. If no arrangements are made within this 60 day period, the person's driving privileges are suspended. After suspension occurs, driving privileges may be reinstated after acceptable arrangements are made with the court, the court notifies DMV, and the person pays a \$75 reinstatement fee.

During calendar year 2019:

- 98,669 FTC Suspension Notices were issued by DMV
- 23,182 rescissions were processed
- 28,357 reinstatements were processed

ODOT supports HB 4210 and the elimination of the FTC suspension, which will result in a workload reduction for DMV. Elimination of the FTC suspension provides critical relief to Oregonians facing unemployment, reduced working hours, and other stressors related to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing individuals to continue driving to work, and making progress toward paying existing fines.

SUMMARY

ODOT supports elimination of the FTC suspension. Elimination of the FTC suspension will result in a substantial workload reduction for DMV, allowing for resources to be diverted to addressing the backlog of transactions created by COVID-19. Additionally, this measure would provide critical relief to Oregonians who are unable to pay traffic fines, and assure them of their ability to drive to work and access essential services.