

REINTEGRATION DRIVER'S LICENSE BILL

HOUSE FILE 503 (Pinto) | SENATE FILE 577 (McEwan)

THE PROBLEM

Many people recently released from incarceration find themselves without a driver's license because it was suspended or revoked for violations committed prior to incarceration. This makes it more difficult, and sometimes impossible, to fulfill the requirements of their supervision and rebuild their lives. Having a driver's license can be a fundamental building block to successful reintegration, but resolving a driver's license suspension or revocation requires financial resources often unavailable to those recently released from incarceration.

A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE SUPPORTS SUCCESSFUL REENTRY OUTCOMES



FINDING AND
KEEPING EMPLOYMENT



OBTAINING STABLE
HOUSING



REUNIFICATION WITH
FAMILY AND CHILDREN



FULFILLING COMMUNITY
SUPERVISION
REQUIREMENTS

BILL SUMMARY

This bill establishes a Reintegration Driver's License, which is a temporary driver's license available at no cost to people recently released from incarceration whose license is suspended or revoked for unpaid fines or minor traffic violations committed prior to incarceration.

- Available to individuals who have spent at least 180 days incarcerated.
- Applicants must apply within 365 days of release.
- Expires 15 months after issuance.
- Cancelled if the driver commits any new violations that would cause a suspension or revocation of a driver's license.

ELIGIBLE

- Unpaid fines for traffic violations
- Insurance-related violations
- Unpaid reinstatement fee
- Habitual violation (> 3 moving violations)

INELIGIBLE

- Required to use ignition interlock
- Canceled as inimical to public safety
- Criminal vehicular operation conviction
- Unresolved hold for child support

BENEFITS OF THE REFORM

This bill recognizes the unique challenges faced by individuals striving to reintegrate into their community upon release from incarceration. Removing financial barriers to valid licensure:

- Supports successful reintegration
- Reduces recidivism
- Aids in family reunification
- Increases safety on the road for all drivers

We must hold people accountable, but we also need to make sure accountability is possible for those willing to work for it.



For more information, please contact Anna Odegaard at aodegaard@mnlisap.org, 612.532.3723 or the MNCJP at reentry@probonoinst.org.

