



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 563

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7161

House of Representatives, April 7, 2025

The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. BERGER-GIRVALO of the 111th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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 PAYMENT INSTALLMENT PLANS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE INFRACTIONS AND VIOLATIONS.

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (a) [No] (1) For the purposes of this subsection, "moving violation"
5 means a violation of subsection (d) of section 14-100a, section 14-212d,
6 14-218a or 14-219, subsection (a) of section 14-220, section 14-222a,
7 subsection (a) of section 14-223, subsection (c) of section 14-224, sections
8 14-230 to 14-238a, inclusive, 14-239 to 14-245, inclusive, 14-246a to 14-
9 247a, inclusive, section 14-249, 14-250, 14-277 or 14-279, subsection (a) of
10 section 14-281a, section 14-283, 14-283b, 14-289b, 14-296aa, 14-298 or 14-
11 299, subsection (c) or (d) of section 14-300, section 14-300d or 14-300f or

12 sections 14-301 to 14-304, inclusive.

13 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no
14 provision of this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the
15 commissioner from suspending or revoking any registration or any
16 operator's license issued under the provisions of any statute relating to
17 motor vehicles, or from suspending the right of any person to operate a
18 motor vehicle in this state, or from suspending or revoking the right of
19 any nonresident to operate, or the right to any operation of, any motor
20 vehicle within this state, for any cause that [he] the commissioner deems
21 sufficient, with or without a hearing. Whenever any certificate of
22 registration is suspended or revoked, all evidence of the same shall be
23 delivered forthwith to the commissioner or to any person authorized by
24 the commissioner to receive the same, and the commissioner or any
25 person authorized by the commissioner may seize such certificate of
26 registration and all evidence of the same. Except as otherwise provided
27 by law, the commissioner may cancel any such suspension or revocation
28 and may return such certificate of registration or restore the operator's
29 license either with or without an additional fee, provided no certificate
30 of registration or operator's license which has been suspended for any
31 definite term, except as provided in subsection (k) of this section, shall
32 be returned or restored until the term of suspension has been completed.
33 Any appeal taken from the action of the commissioner shall not act as a
34 stay of suspension or revocation except with [his] the commissioner's
35 consent. No service of process shall be necessary in connection with any
36 of the prescribed activities of the commissioner, but a notice forwarded
37 by bulk certified mail to the address of the person registered as owner
38 or operator of any motor vehicle as shown by the records of the
39 commissioner shall be sufficient notice to such person that the certificate
40 of registration or operator's license is revoked or under suspension.

41 (3) (A) The commissioner shall not suspend a person's operator's
42 license solely for failure to pay any fine, fee or charge associated with an
43 infraction involving the use of a motor vehicle or a violation of any
44 statute relating to motor vehicles specified in section 51-164n, as
45 amended by this act, unless (i) such infraction or violation is a moving

46 violation, (ii) such person has been convicted of a third such infraction
47 or violation within three years after the date of a prior conviction of such
48 infraction or violation, or (iii) such person fails, for the third time, to
49 make a timely payment in accordance with an installment payment
50 plan, established pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section
51 51-164n, as amended by this act.

52 (B) The commissioner shall not suspend a person's operator's license
53 solely for failure to appear for any scheduled court appearance with
54 regard to an infraction involving the use of a motor vehicle or a violation
55 of any statute relating to motor vehicles specified in section 51-164n, as
56 amended by this act, unless such infraction or violation is a moving
57 violation.

58 Sec. 2. Section 51-164n of the general statutes is repealed and the
59 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

60 (a) There shall be a Centralized Infractions Bureau of the Superior
61 Court to handle payments or pleas of not guilty with respect to the
62 commission of an infraction under any provision of the general statutes
63 or a violation set forth in subsection (b) of this section. Except as
64 provided in section 51-164o, any person who is alleged to have
65 committed an infraction or a violation under subsection (b) of this
66 section may plead not guilty or pay the established fine and any
67 additional fee or cost for the infraction or such violation.

68 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any person
69 who is alleged to have committed (1) a violation under the provisions of
70 section 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 2-71h, 4b-13, 7-13, 7-14, 7-35 or 7-41, subsection (c)
71 of section 7-66, section 7-83, 7-147h, 7-148, 7-283, 7-325, 7-393, 8-12, 8-25,
72 8-27, 9-63, 9-322, 9-350, 10-185, 10-193, 10-197, 10-198, 10-230, 10-251, 10-
73 254, 10a-35, 12-52, 12-54, 12-129b or 12-170aa, subdivision (3) of
74 subsection (e) of section 12-286, section 12-286a, 12-292, 12-314b or 12-
75 326g, subdivision (4) of section 12-408, subdivision (3), (5) or (6) of
76 section 12-411, section 12-435c, 12-476a, 12-476b, 12-476c, 12-487, 13a-
77 26b, 13a-71, 13a-107, 13a-113, 13a-114, 13a-115, 13a-117b, 13a-123, 13a-
78 124, 13a-139, 13a-140, 13a-143b, 13a-253, 13a-263 or 13b-39f, subsection

79 (f) of section 13b-42, section 13b-90 or 13b-100, subsection (a) of section
80 13b-108, section 13b-221 or 13b-292, subsection (a) or (b) of section 13b-
81 324, section 13b-336, 13b-337, 13b-338, 13b-410a, 13b-410b or 13b-410c,
82 subsection (a), (b) or (c) of section 13b-412, section 13b-414 or 14-4,
83 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-12, subsection (d) of
84 section 14-12, subsection (f) of section 14-12a, subsection (a) of section
85 14-15a, section 14-16c, 14-20a or 14-27a, subsection (f) of section 14-34a,
86 subsection (d) of section 14-35, section 14-43, 14-44j, 14-49, 14-50a, 14-58
87 or 14-62a, subsection (b) of section 14-66, section 14-66a or 14-67a,
88 subsection (g) of section 14-80, subsection (f) or (i) of section 14-80h,
89 section 14-97a or 14-98, subsection (a), (b) or (d) of section 14-100a,
90 section 14-100b, 14-103a, 14-106a, 14-106c, 14-145a, 14-146, 14-152, 14-
91 153, 14-161 or 14-163b, subsection (f) of section 14-164i, section 14-213b
92 or 14-219, subdivision (1) of section 14-223a, subsection (d) of section 14-
93 224, section 14-240, 14-250, 14-253a, 14-261a, 14-262, 14-264, 14-266, 14-
94 267a, 14-269, 14-270, 14-272b, 14-274, 14-275 or 14-275a, subsection (c) of
95 section 14-275c, section 14-276, subsection (a) or (b) of section 14-277,
96 section 14-278, 14-279 or 14-280, subsection (b), (e) or (h) of section 14-
97 283, section 14-283d, 14-283e, 14-283f, 14-283g, 14-291, 14-293b, 14-296aa,
98 14-298a, 14-300, 14-300d, 14-300f, 14-319, 14-320, 14-321, 14-325a, 14-326,
99 14-330 or 14-332a, subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of section 14-386a, section
100 15-15e, 15-25 or 15-33, subdivision (1) of section 15-97, subsection (a) of
101 section 15-115, section 16-15, 16-16, 16-44, 16-256e, 16-278 or 16a-15,
102 subsection (a) of section 16a-21, section 16a-22, subsection (a) or (b) of
103 section 16a-22h, section 16a-106, 17a-24, 17a-145, 17a-149 or 17a-152,
104 subsection (b) of section 17a-227, section 17a-465, subsection (c) of
105 section 17a-488, section 17b-124, 17b-131, 17b-137, 19a-33, 19a-39 or 19a-
106 87, subsection (b) of section 19a-87a, section 19a-91, 19a-102a, 19a-102b,
107 19a-105, 19a-107, 19a-113, 19a-215, 19a-216a, 19a-219, 19a-222, 19a-224,
108 19a-286, 19a-287, 19a-297, 19a-301, 19a-309, 19a-335, 19a-336, 19a-338,
109 19a-339, 19a-340, 19a-425, 19a-442, 19a-502, 19a-565, 20-7a, 20-14, 20-
110 153a, 20-158, 20-231, 20-233, 20-249, 20-257, 20-265, 20-324e, 20-329c or
111 20-329g, subsection (b) of section 20-334, section 20-341l, 20-366, 20-482,
112 20-597, 20-608, 20-610, 20-623, 21-1, 21-38, 21-39, 21-43, 21-47, 21-48 or
113 21-63, subsection (d) of section 21-71, section 21-76a or 21-100,

114 subsection (c) of section 21a-2, subdivision (1) of section 21a-19, section
115 21a-20 or 21a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-25,
116 section 21a-26, subsection (a) of section 21a-37, section 21a-46, 21a-61,
117 21a-63, 21a-70b or 21a-77, subsection (b) or (c) of section 21a-79, section
118 21a-85 or 21a-154, subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-159,
119 section 21a-278b, subsection (c), (d) or (e) of section 21a-279a, section
120 21a-415a, 21a-421eee, 21a-421fff or 21a-421hhh, subsection (a) of section
121 21a-430, section 22-12b, 22-13, 22-14, 22-15, 22-16, 22-26g, 22-30, 22-34,
122 22-35, 22-36, 22-38, 22-39, 22-39f, 22-49, 22-54, 22-61j or 22-61l,
123 subdivision (1) of subsection (n) of section 22-61l, subsection (f) of
124 section 22-61m, subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of section 22-61m,
125 section 22-84, 22-89, 22-90, 22-96, 22-98, 22-99, 22-100 or 22-111o,
126 subsection (d) of section 22-118l, section 22-167, subsection (c) of section
127 22-277, section 22-278, 22-279, 22-280a, 22-318a, 22-320h, 22-324a or 22-
128 326, subsection (b), subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (e) or subsection
129 (g) of section 22-344, subsection (a) or (b) of section 22-344b, subsection
130 (d) of section 22-344d, section 22-344f, 22-350a, 22-354, 22-359, 22-366,
131 22-391, 22-413, 22-414, 22-415, 22-415c, 22a-66a or 22a-246, subsection (a)
132 of section 22a-250, section 22a-256g, subsection (e) of section 22a-256h,
133 section 22a-363 or 22a-381d, subsections (c) and (d) of section 22a-381e,
134 section 22a-449, 22a-450, 22a-461, 23-4b, 23-38, 23-45, 23-46 or 23-61b,
135 subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 23-65, section
136 25-37 or 25-40, subsection (a) of section 25-43, section 25-43d, 25-135, 26-
137 18, 26-19, 26-21, 26-31, 26-40, 26-40a, 26-42, 26-43, 26-49, 26-54, 26-55, 26-
138 56, 26-58 or 26-59, subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 26-61,
139 section 26-64, subdivision (1) of section 26-76, section 26-79, 26-87, 26-89,
140 26-91, 26-94, 26-97, 26-98, 26-104, 26-105, 26-107, 26-114a, 26-117,
141 subsection (b) of section 26-127, 26-128, 26-128a, 26-131, 26-132, 26-138,
142 26-139 or 26-141, subdivision (1) of section 26-186, section 26-207, 26-215,
143 26-217 or 26-224a, subdivision (1) of section 26-226, section 26-227, 26-
144 230, 26-231, 26-232, 26-244, 26-257a, 26-260, 26-276, 26-280, 26-284, 26-
145 285, 26-286, 26-287, 26-288, 26-290, 26-291a, 26-292, 26-294, 27-107, 28-13,
146 29-6a, 29-16, 29-17, 29-25, 29-143o, 29-143z or 29-156a, subsection (b), (d),
147 (e), (g) or (h) of section 29-161q, section 29-161y or 29-161z, subdivision
148 (1) of section 29-198, section 29-210, 29-243 or 29-277, subsection (c) of

149 section 29-291c, section 29-316 or 29-318, subsection (b) of section 29-
150 335a, section 29-381, 30-19f, 30-48a or 30-86a, subsection (b) of section
151 30-89, subsection (c) or (d) of section 30-117, section 31-3, 31-10, 31-11,
152 31-12, 31-13, 31-14, 31-15, 31-16, 31-18, 31-23, 31-24, 31-25, 31-32, 31-36,
153 31-47 or 31-48, subsection (b) of section 31-48b, section 31-51, 31-51g, 31-
154 52, 31-52a, 31-53 or 31-54, subsection (a) or (c) of section 31-69, section
155 31-70, 31-74, 31-75, 31-76, 31-76a, 31-89b or 31-134, subsection (i) of
156 section 31-273, section 31-288, 31-348, 33-624, 33-1017, 34-13d or 34-412,
157 subdivision (1) of section 35-20, subsection (a) of section 36a-57,
158 subsection (b) of section 36a-665, section 36a-699, 36a-739, 36a-787, 38a-
159 2 or 38a-140, subsection (a) or (b) of section 38a-278, section 38a-479qq,
160 38a-479rr, 38a-506, 38a-548, 38a-626, 38a-680, 38a-713, 38a-733, 38a-764,
161 38a-786, 38a-828, 38a-829, 38a-885, 42-133hh, 42-230, 42-470 or 42-480,
162 subsection (a) or (c) of section 43-16q, section 45a-283, 45a-450, 45a-634
163 or 45a-658, subdivision (13) or (14) of section 46a-54, section 46a-59, 46a-
164 81b, 46b-22, 46b-24, 46b-34, 46b-38d, 47-34a, 47-47 or 47-53, subsection
165 (i) of section 47a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (k) of section 47a-21,
166 section 49-2a, 49-8a, 49-16, 52-143 or 52-289, subsection (j) of section 52-
167 362, section 53-133, 53-199, 53-212a, 53-249a, 53-252, 53-264, 53-280, 53-
168 290a, 53-302a, 53-303e, 53-311a, 53-314, 53-321, 53-322, 53-323 or 53-331,
169 subsection (b) of section 53-343a, section 53-344, subsection (b) or (c) of
170 section 53-344b, subsection (b) of section 53-345a, section 53-377, 53-422
171 or 53-450 or subsection (i) of section 54-36a, or (2) a violation under the
172 provisions of chapter 268, or (3) a violation of any regulation adopted in
173 accordance with the provisions of section 12-484, 12-487 or 13b-410, or
174 (4) a violation of any ordinance, regulation or bylaw of any town, city or
175 borough, except violations of building codes and the health code, for
176 which the penalty exceeds ninety dollars but does not exceed two
177 hundred fifty dollars, unless such town, city or borough has established
178 a payment and hearing procedure for such violation pursuant to section
179 7-152c, shall follow the procedures set forth in this section.

180 (c) (1) If any person who is alleged to have committed an infraction
181 or any violation specified in subsection (b) of this section elects to pay
182 the fine and any additional fees or costs established for such infraction
183 or violation, [he] such person shall send payment, by mail or otherwise,

184 to the Centralized Infractions Bureau, made payable to the "clerk of the
185 Superior Court" [. Such] or, in the case of an infraction involving the use
186 of a motor vehicle or a violation of any statute relating to motor vehicles
187 specified in subsection (b) of this section, enter into an installment
188 payment plan pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

189 (2) If any such person who is alleged to have committed an infraction
190 involving the use of a motor vehicle or a violation of any statute relating
191 to motor vehicles specified in subsection (b) of this section and the total
192 amount of the fine and any additional fees or costs equals or exceeds
193 one hundred fifty dollars, the Centralized Infractions Bureau shall offer
194 such person the opportunity on the bureau's Internet web site to enter
195 into an installment payment plan over a period of twelve months. The
196 bureau may assess an additional fee not to exceed fifteen dollars to pay
197 the administrative costs of implementing any such installment payment
198 plan. Any such installment payment plan shall be comprised of all fines
199 and additional fees or costs. The bureau may accept payments higher
200 than the installment amount established pursuant to the installment
201 payment plan. If a person fails to make a timely payment in accordance
202 with any such installment payment plan for a first or second time, the
203 bureau shall provide such person with an additional thirty days to make
204 any such payment and assess a late fee of fifteen dollars for each such
205 failure to pay. If a person fails to make a timely payment in accordance
206 with any such installment payment plan for a third time, the bureau
207 shall terminate the installment payment plan and submit a report of
208 such failure to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles pursuant to
209 subsection (b) of section 14-140, as amended by this act.

210 (3) Any such payment made under subdivision (1) of this subsection
211 or agreement to enter into an installment payment plan made pursuant
212 to subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be considered a plea of nolo
213 contendere and shall be inadmissible in any proceeding, civil or
214 criminal, to establish the conduct of the person, provided the provisions
215 of this section and section 51-164m shall not affect the application of any
216 administrative sanctions by either the Commissioner of Energy and
217 Environmental Protection authorized under title 26 or the

218 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles authorized under title 14, except that
219 no points shall be assessed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
220 against the operator's license of such person for such infraction or
221 violation.

222 (4) The Judicial Department shall provide notice of the provisions of
223 this subsection to law enforcement agencies and direct each law
224 enforcement agency issuing a complaint to provide such notice to any
225 person who is alleged to have committed a motor vehicle infraction or
226 violation at the time a complaint alleging such conduct is issued to such
227 person. The Judicial Department shall publish information about the
228 availability of installment payment plans for certain infractions and
229 violations on the department's Internet web site.

230 (d) If the person elects to plead not guilty, [he] such person shall send
231 the plea of not guilty to the Centralized Infractions Bureau. The bureau
232 shall send such plea and request for trial to the clerk of the geographical
233 area where the trial is to be conducted. Such clerk shall advise such
234 person of a date certain for a hearing.

235 (e) A summons for the commission of an infraction or of a violation
236 specified in subsection (b) of this section shall not be deemed to be an
237 arrest and the commission of an infraction or of any such violation shall
238 not be deemed to be an offense within the meaning of section 53a-24.

239 (f) The provisions of this section shall apply to the alleged
240 commission of an infraction or a violation specified in subsection (b) of
241 this section by a minor but, in a case involving a minor, a parent or
242 guardian shall sign any plea of nolo contendere or of not guilty on any
243 summons form issued in connection with the matter.

244 (g) If a person elects to plead not guilty and send the plea of not guilty
245 to the Centralized Infractions Bureau in accordance with subsection (d)
246 of this section, such person may subsequently, at a proceeding at
247 Superior Court, reach an agreement with the prosecutorial official as to
248 the amount of the fine to be paid and elect to pay such fine without
249 appearing before a judicial authority. As a part of any such agreement,

250 the prosecutorial official may require such person to attend a motor
251 vehicle operator safety course that addresses the nature of such
252 infraction or violation and that is offered or approved by the Chief
253 State's Attorney. The amount of the fine agreed upon shall not exceed
254 the amount of the fine established for such infraction or violation. Any
255 person who pays a fine pursuant to this subsection shall also pay any
256 additional fees or costs established for such infraction or violation. Such
257 person shall make such payment to the clerk of the Superior Court and
258 such payment shall be considered a plea of nolo contendere and shall be
259 inadmissible in any proceeding, civil or criminal, to establish the
260 conduct of such person, provided the provisions of this section and
261 section 51-164m shall not affect the application of any administrative
262 sanctions by either the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
263 Protection authorized under title 26 or the Commissioner of Motor
264 Vehicles authorized under title 14. A plea of nolo contendere pursuant
265 to this subsection does not have to be submitted in writing. Nothing in
266 this subsection shall affect the right of a person who is alleged to have
267 committed an infraction or any violation specified in subsection (b) of
268 this section to plead not guilty and request a trial before a judicial
269 authority.

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

277 (i) In any trial for the alleged commission of a violation specified in
278 subsection (b) of this section, the practice, procedure, rules of evidence
279 and burden of proof applicable in criminal proceedings shall apply,
280 except that in any trial for the alleged commission of a violation under
281 subsection (a) of section 21a-279a, the burden of proof shall be by the
282 preponderance of the evidence. Any person found guilty at the trial or
283 upon a plea shall be guilty of the commission of a violation and shall be

284 fined not more than the statutory amount applicable to such violation.

285 Sec. 3. Section 14-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the
286 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

287 (a) Any person who has been arrested by an officer for a violation of
288 any provision of any statute relating to motor vehicles may be released,
289 upon [his] such person's own recognizance, by such officer in [his] such
290 officer's discretion, unless such violation is of a provision relating to
291 driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or
292 using a motor vehicle without permission of the owner or evading
293 responsibility for personal injury or property damage or involves the
294 death or serious injury of another, in which cases such person shall not
295 be released on [his] such person's own recognizance.

296 (b) If any person so arrested or summoned wilfully fails to appear for
297 any scheduled court appearance at the time and place assigned, or if any
298 person charged with an infraction involving the use of a motor vehicle,
299 or with a motor vehicle violation specified in section 51-164n, as
300 amended by this act, wilfully fails to comply with remote events and
301 deadlines set by the court for infractions and violations specified in
302 section 51-164n, as amended by this act, or fails to pay the fine and any
303 additional fee imposed, make timely payments in accordance with an
304 installment payment plan or send in [his] such person's plea of not
305 guilty by the answer date or wilfully fails to appear for any scheduled
306 court appearance which may be required, or if any person fails to pay
307 any surcharge imposed under section 13b-70, any fee imposed under
308 section 51-56a or any cost imposed under section 54-143 or 54-143a, a
309 report of such failure shall be sent to the commissioner by the court
310 having jurisdiction. The provisions of this section shall be extended to
311 any nonresident owner or operator of a motor vehicle residing in any
312 state, the proper authorities of which agree with the commissioner to
313 revoke, until personal appearance to answer the charge against [him,
314 his] such person, such person's motor vehicle registration certificate or
315 operator's license, upon [his] such person's failure to appear for any
316 scheduled court appearance. Any infractions or violations, for which a

317 report of failure to appear has been sent to the commissioner under this
 318 subsection, that have not otherwise been disposed of shall be dismissed
 319 by operation of law seven years after such report was sent.

320 (c) The commissioner may enter into reciprocal agreements with the
 321 proper authorities of other states, which agreements may include
 322 provisions for the suspension or revocation of licenses and registrations
 323 of residents and nonresidents who fail to appear for trial at the time and
 324 place assigned.

325 (d) Any judgment under this section shall be opened upon the
 326 payment to the clerk of the Superior Court of a fee of forty dollars. Such
 327 filing fee may be waived by the court.

328 (e) In addition, the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall
 329 apply to sections 29-322, 29-349 and 29-351.

330 Sec. 4. (*Effective January 1, 2026*) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles,
 331 in conjunction with the Centralized Infractions Bureau, shall develop
 332 and conduct an awareness campaign to educate the public concerning
 333 (1) the importance of responding and how to respond to motor vehicle
 334 infractions and violations in a timely manner, (2) the availability of an
 335 installment payment plan for certain motor vehicle infractions and
 336 violations, and (3) the consequences of failing to pay the fines, fees or
 337 costs associated with a motor vehicle infraction or violation or failing to
 338 appear for a scheduled court appearance.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2026	14-111(a)
Sec. 2	January 1, 2026	51-164n
Sec. 3	January 1, 2026	14-140
Sec. 4	January 1, 2026	New section

Section 1	January 1, 2026	14-111(a)
Sec. 2	January 1, 2026	51-164n
Sec. 3	January 1, 2026	14-140
Sec. 4	January 1, 2026	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a)(3)(B), "any motor vehicle infraction or violation" was changed to "an infraction involving the use of a motor vehicle or a violation of any statute relating to motor vehicles specified in section 51-

164n, as amended by this act" for accuracy and consistency and Section 2(c) was rewritten for clarity and consistency.

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Revenue Loss	Approximately 237,500	Approximately 475,000
Department of Motor Vehicles	School Bus Seat Belt account (Non-lapsing GF) - Revenue Loss	Approximately 95,000	Approximately 190,000
State Revenues	Various - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: TF=Transportation Fund; Various=Various

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 prohibits the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from suspending a person's driver's license solely for failure to pay fines or appear in court for a motor vehicle infraction or related charge. This prohibition does not apply to certain "moving violations" or to those with a third conviction within three years, as outlined in the bill.

This section is expected to result in annual revenue loss from foregone license restoration fees of approximately \$475,000 to the Special Transportation Fund and \$190,000 to the School Bus Seat Belt account within the General Fund (FY 26 impact is half given the January 1, 2026 effective date).¹ This estimate is based on the number of DMV license restorations (and associated fee payments) in FY 24 for licenses

¹ Each \$175 license restoration fee is deposited to two places: \$125 to the Special Transportation Fund and \$50 to the School Bus Seat Belt Account.

that were suspended solely due to failure to pay fines or to appear, following a non-moving violation.

Section 2 requires the Centralized Infractions Bureau (CIB), within the Judicial Department, to develop payment plans for certain infractions and violations and allows CIB to collect certain fees associated with such payment plans. This results in a potential revenue gain to the state from fees and fines to the extent that changes in the bill lead to more compliance with payment.

The bill requires CIB to assess \$15 late fees for failure to make a timely payment on an installment plan for the first or second time. The bill also allows CIB to charge up to an additional \$15 for administrative fees related to the installment plan.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of installment payment plans and the actual fees assessed.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7161*****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 PAYMENT INSTALLMENT PLANS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE INFRACTIONS AND VIOLATIONS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill generally prohibits the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner from suspending a person's driver's license for only one or both of the following reasons:

1. failure to pay a fine, fee, or charge associated with a motor vehicle-related infraction or violation processed through the Superior Court's Centralized Infractions Bureau (CIB; see BACKGROUND), or
2. failure to appear for a scheduled court appearance related to these infractions and violations.

The bill's suspension prohibition for failure to pay or appear does not apply to certain infractions or violations it deems "moving violations." Additionally, specifically for failure to pay, the prohibition does not apply if (1) the motor-vehicle related infraction or violation conviction is a person's third within three years or (2) a person fails, for the third time, to make a timely installment plan payment through CIB for one of these infractions or violations, as the bill permits. The bill requires the Judicial Department to publish information about these payment plans' availability on its website.

The bill also requires the DMV commissioner, in conjunction with CIB, to develop and conduct an awareness campaign educating the public about the (1) importance of timely responding to motor vehicle

infractions and violations, and how to do so; (2) consequences of not paying related fines, fees, or costs, or failing to appear for a scheduled court date; and (3) availability of installment payment plans.

Lastly, the bill makes various minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENSION PROCEDURE

Current law gives the DMV commissioner broad authority to suspend or revoke a driver's license for any cause he deems sufficient. It also establishes a license suspension procedure requiring the court to notify the commissioner when someone:

1. is arrested for a violation of any motor vehicle-related statute and willfully fails to appear for a scheduled court appearance;
2. is charged with a motor-vehicle related infraction or violation processed through CIB (or certain other violations) and fails to pay the related fine and any additional fees, or plead not guilty, by the required date or willfully fails to comply with court-set remote events and deadlines or appear for a scheduled court appearance; or
3. fails to pay certain related additional surcharges, fees, and costs (such as the 50% surcharge for the Special Transportation Fund that applies to most motor vehicle-related fines, penalties, or charges).

Under current practice, DMV then suspends the person's license. The bill prohibits these suspensions solely for failing to pay or appear in relation to motor vehicle-related infractions or violations processed through CIB, with certain exceptions. (It does not prohibit suspension for other reasons; state law allows or requires suspension for many specified driving-related and non-driving violations.)

CIB INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLANS

The bill (1) allows anyone charged with a motor vehicle-related infraction or violation processed through CIB to pay under a 12-month installment plan, if the fine's total amount (including any additional fees or costs) is at least \$150 and (2) requires CIB to provide this option on its website. It allows CIB to assess an additional fee of up to \$15 to cover related administrative costs. Under the bill, the payment plans must include all fines and related fees or costs, and CIB may accept payments higher than the monthly installment amount.

Like payments made through CIB under existing law, agreeing to enter into a payment plan (1) is considered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) and is not admissible in any civil or criminal proceeding and (2) does not result in the DMV commissioner assessing points against the person's driver's license.

Existing law requires the Judicial Department to provide notice about paying through CIB to law enforcement agencies and direct them to give it to anyone alleged to have committed a motor vehicle infraction or violation when issuing the complaint. Under the bill, this notice must have information about the option to pay through an installment payment plan.

Failure to Make Installment Payments

When a person fails to make a timely payment on an installment plan for the first or second time, the bill requires CIB to assess a \$15 late fee and allow the person an additional 30 days to make the missed payment for each instance. However, for a third missed payment, CIB must end the payment plan and report it to the DMV commissioner in the same way it reports other circumstances for driver's license suspension (see above).

MOVING VIOLATIONS

The bill deems violations of certain motor vehicle statutes "moving violations," which are exempt from its driver's license suspension prohibition. The following table lists these violations, with a general description of each.

Table: Moving Violations Under the Bill

CGS §	General Description
14-100a(d)	Requires (1) anyone transporting certain children in a motor vehicle to put them in car or booster seats meeting certain requirements or fasten their seatbelt (based on age and weight) or (2) certain violators to attend a car seat safety course
14-212d	Prohibits certain acts in a highway work zone that constitute endangerment or aggravated endangerment of a highway worker
14-218a	Prohibits drivers from traveling unreasonably fast
14-219	Prohibits speeding or driving to endanger
14-220(a)	Prohibits driving at a slow speed, with certain exceptions
14-222a	Prohibits negligent homicide with a motor vehicle
14-223(a)	Prohibits failing to stop when signaled by an officer or disobeying his or her motor vehicle operation-related directions
14-224(c)	Prohibits various actions related to motor vehicle racing, contests, speed or skill demonstrations, and street takeovers
14-230 to -238a	Sets requirements for driving in the right-hand or left-hand lane, passing, driving within lanes, and driving on divided highways and controlled-access highways
14-239 to -245	Sets requirements for driving on one-way streets and rotaries or roundabouts, distances between moving vehicles, vehicle turns, signaling, starting or backing vehicles, and intersection rights-of-way
14-246a to -247a	Sets requirements for vehicle right-of-way at highway junctions, driveways or private roads, and certain limited-vision areas like alleys and buildings
14-249 & -250	Sets requirements related to railroad crossings
14-277	Sets requirements for school bus operators and generally prohibits bus idling for more than three minutes
14-279	Prohibits improper passing of a standing school bus
14-281a(a)	Requires school buses to be operated at safe speeds and these buses and student transportation vehicles to display lighted headlamps
14-283	Prohibits drivers from obstructing or impeding an emergency vehicle
14-283b	Requires drivers to slow down and move over when approaching slow or stationary emergency vehicles
14-289b	Prohibits motorcycle and autocycle operators from taking certain actions and requires certain motorcycles to have illuminated head lamps while operated
14-296aa	Prohibits violating the state's distracted driving law
14-298 & -299	Provides the Office of the State Traffic Authority with jurisdiction over traffic control signals, devices, signs, and markings on state roads and local traffic authorities with these powers on roads under their jurisdiction; specifies how drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists must comply with various signals

CGS §	General Description
14-300(c) & (d), 14-300d, 14-300f	Sets requirements for drivers related to crosswalks, pedestrians, and school crossing guards
14-301 to -304	Sets requirements for drivers related to stop signs, yield signs, one-way streets, and safety zones

BACKGROUND

Centralized Infractions Bureau (CIB)

By law, individuals charged with a motor vehicle-related infraction or violation may, generally, pay the fine through CIB without appearing in court. Payment is considered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) and is not admissible in any civil or criminal proceeding. If an individual pleads not guilty, CIB must send the plea and request for trial to the clerk of the geographical area court where the trial would take place. The practice, procedure, rules of evidence, and burden of proof applicable in criminal proceedings apply in the trial (CGS § 51-164n).

Failure to Pay or Plead

By law, a person charged with an infraction or violation handled by CIB who fails to pay the related fine and any additional fees (or plead not guilty) by the required date or willfully fails to appear for a scheduled court appearance is guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of up to 10 days (CGS § 51-164r).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 12 (03/19/2025)