

General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7161

January Session, 2025



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- 2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*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 <u>section 14-281a, section 14-283, 14-283b, 14-289b, 14-296aa, 14-298 or 14-</u>
- 11 299, subsection (c) or (d) of section 14-300, section 14-300d or 14-300f or
- 12 <u>sections 14-301 to 14-304, inclusive.</u>
- 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
- operator's license issued under the provisions of any statute relating to

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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) (A) The commissioner shall not suspend a person's operator's license solely for failure to pay any fine, fee or charge associated with 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, unless (i) such infraction or violation is a moving violation, (ii) such person has been convicted of a third such infraction or violation within three years after the date of a prior conviction of such infraction or violation, or (iii) such person fails, for the third time, to make a timely payment in accordance with an installment payment plan, established pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section

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- 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
- 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
- or a violation set forth in subsection (b) of this section. Except as
- 64 provided in section 51-1640, any person who is alleged to have
- 65 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.
- (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,

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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, subsection (d) of section 14-35, section 14-43, 14-44, 14-49, 14-50a, 14-58 86 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, section 14-278, 14-279 or 14-280, subsection (b), (e) or (h) of section 14-96 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 section 15-115, section 16-15, 16-16, 16-44, 16-256e, 16-278 or 16a-15, 101 102 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 section 17a-488, section 17b-124, 17b-131, 17b-137, 19a-33, 19a-39 or 19a-105 106 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

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21a-85 or 21a-154, subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-159, 118 119 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 21a-430, section 22-12b, 22-13, 22-14, 22-15, 22-16, 22-26g, 22-30, 22-34, 121 122 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 22-1110, 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, 22-391, 22-413, 22-414, 22-415, 22-415c, 22a-66a or 22a-246, subsection (a) 131 132 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 25-37 or 25-40, subsection (a) of section 25-43, section 25-43d, 25-135, 26-136 137 18, 26-19, 26-21, 26-31, 26-40, 26-40a, 26-42, 26-43, 26-49, 26-54, 26-55, 26-56, 26-58 or 26-59, subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 26-61, 138 139 section 26-64, subdivision (1) of section 26-76, section 26-79, 26-87, 26-89, 26-91, 26-94, 26-97, 26-98, 26-104, 26-105, 26-107, 26-114a, 26-117, 140 141 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, 29-1430, 29-143z or 29-156a, subsection (b), (d), (e), (g) or (h) of section 29-161q, section 29-161y or 29-161z, subdivision 147 148 (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,

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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, section 49-2a, 49-8a, 49-16, 52-143 or 52-289, subsection (j) of section 52-166 167 362, section 53-133, 53-199, 53-212a, 53-249a, 53-252, 53-264, 53-280, 53-290a, 53-302a, 53-303e, 53-311a, 53-314, 53-321, 53-322, 53-323 or 53-331, 168 169 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.

(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" [. Such] or, in the case of an infraction involving the use of a motor vehicle or a violation of any statute relating to motor vehicles

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specified in subsection (b) of this section, enter into an installment payment plan pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

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

(3) Any such payment made under subdivision (1) of this subsection or agreement to enter into an installment payment plan made pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection 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

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221 violation.

- (4) The Judicial Department shall provide notice of the provisions of this subsection 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 for certain infractions and violations on the department's Internet web site.
 - (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 infraction or violation and that is offered or approved by the Chief

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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.

Sec. 3. Section 14-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the

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following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective January 1, 2026):

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- (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) 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, make timely payments in accordance with an installment payment plan 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. 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.

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- (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.
- 328 (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 January 1, 2026*) 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 infractions and violations in a timely manner, (2) the availability of an installment payment plan for certain motor vehicle infractions and violations, and (3) 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.

| 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 |

TRA Joint Favorable Subst.

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