



DRIVER'S LICENSES ARE REQUIRED FOR JOBS

- **79.5%** of Georgians drive to work.¹
- A driver's license is **more valuable** than a GED in securing work.²
- **Almost half** of people who lose their licenses lose their jobs.³



DRIVER'S LICENSES ARE FREQUENTLY SUSPENDED

- **105,000** licenses suspended annually for Failure to Appear (FTA) for a traffic offense.⁴
- Suspension is automatic; judges have **no discretion** to stop or recall a suspension.
- Suspension **does not increase road safety**.



EVERYONE LOSES

- Lost licenses = Lost jobs = **Lost tax revenue & spending**
- **75%** of people with suspensions still drive out of necessity⁵
- **50,000** arrests are made annually in Georgia for driving on a suspended license⁶; resulting in **450,000 law enforcement hours** spent annually on non-safety related arrests.⁷



A VICIOUS CYCLE BEGINS

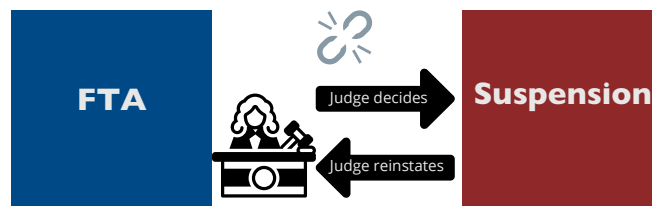
- An FTA for any traffic violation **automatically** results in a suspended license.
- The court **cannot recall** a suspension, even if the person later appears.
- Suspensions **start a cycle** of deeper poverty through job loss, further inability to pay the court, more arrests and fines, and even less ability to pay and reclaim the license.



BREAKING THE CYCLE

Potential Solutions to Reduce Suspensions

- **Empower the courts with discretion to suspend and recall suspensions.** Keep the power to suspend and restore licenses within the courts.
- **Extend existing pauper's affidavit to 100% of reinstatement fee.**
- Improve notice of court dates and communication of options for payment plans.
- End automatic suspension for FTA's on minor traffic tickets and child support debt.
- Automatically convert to provisional license upon FTA instead of suspension.



Want to learn more? Contact Wade Askew, GJP Supervising Attorney at Wade@GJP.org or 404.827.0027 ext. 214. Georgia Justice Project | 438 Edgewood Ave SE, Atlanta, GA 30312 | www.GJP.org

SOURCES

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 2. John Pawasarat & Frank Stetzer, The EARN (Early Assessment and Retention Network) Model for Effectively Targeting WIA and TANF Resources to Participants, U. OF WIS. EMP. & TRAINING INST., 2007 at 18, available at The EARN (Early Assessment and Retention Network) Model for Effectively Targeting WIA and TANF Resources to Participants (uwm.edu).
 3. Jon A. Carnegie et al., "Driver's License Suspensions, Impacts and Fairness Study," N.J. Dep't of Transportation (2007).
 4. DDS Open Records Request for Fiscal Year 2019.
 5. America Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, Best Practices Guide to Reducing Suspended Drivers.
 6. Georgia Crime Information Center Open Records Request 10/6/2020.
 7. American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, "Best Practices Guide to Reducing Suspended Drivers" (2013), <https://www.aamva.org/Suspended-and-Revoked-Drivers-Working-Group/>.