

# Support HB3052/SB1786

Ammons / Aquino



Over **50 thousand Illinois licenses are suspended each year** because drivers can't pay tickets, fines, or fees; or for other reasons unrelated to bad driving. If you can't work, you can't pay. If you can't pay, you can't work. The debt cycle continues, hurting individuals, families, businesses, communities, and taxpayers.

Over **80%** of Illinoisans drive to work, and a license is required just to apply for many jobs.<sup>1</sup>



After curbing non-moving suspensions in 2012, WA State **freed up about 70,000 annual law enforcement hours** to prioritize public safety.<sup>2</sup>



The Northern District of Illinois leads the nation in Chapter 13 bankruptcy. A third to half of people are filing **because local governments have suspended, or are threatening to suspend, their driver's licenses** or seize their cars over debt.<sup>3</sup>



- National experts agree: DMV's aren't debt collectors. Driver's licenses should be suspended for **highway safety reasons only**, not for debt collection or other non-moving violations.<sup>4</sup>
- Illinois is an outlier: the majority of states do not suspend licenses for **unpaid parking tickets**.<sup>5</sup>
- **Excessive license suspension increases unemployment.** A New Jersey study found that 42% of individuals lost their jobs following the suspension of their licenses.<sup>6</sup>
- An Illinois survey found **job loss for half of suspended drivers**.<sup>7</sup>
- **The impact is disproportionate.** Black and Latino drivers are more likely than white drivers to be stopped by the police, **to be fined or arrested for traffic offenses**, and to suffer undue fines or incarceration.<sup>8</sup>

## Here's how the License to Work Act helps:

- Eliminates driver's license suspension as a penalty for most non-driving violations, including:
  - Failing to pay parking, compliance, or tollway tickets, fines, or fees
  - Being judged to be a "truant minor"
  - Criminal trespass to a vehicle, and a handful of other non-driving violations
- Allows an individual whose license was suspended under any of these provisions to have their license reinstated.

[License2Work.org](http://License2Work.org)  
**Good drivers should keep driving and keep working.**

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# Who Supports the License to Work Act?

ACLU Illinois	Illinois Asset Building Group
Breakthrough Urban Ministries	Illinois Hunger Coalition
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council	Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Cabrini Green Legal Aid	Illinois YouthBuild Coalition, Inc.
Cara Chicago	Jane Addams Resource Corporation
Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice	John Howard Association of Illinois
Chicago Center for Arts and Technology	Juvenile Justice Initiative
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless	Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender
Chicago Council of Lawyers	Navicore Solutions
Chicago CRED	New Moms
Chicago Jobs Council	North Lawndale Employment Network
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity
Community Renewal Society	POWER-PAC, a project of COFI
Comprehensive Community Solutions	Safer Foundation
Cook County Sheriff's Office	Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Employment & Employer Services	SEIU Healthcare
Growing Home	Social Change
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights	St. Leonard's Ministries
Howard Area Community Center	Women Employed
	Woodstock Institute

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

<sup>2</sup> "Reducing Suspended Drivers," Presentation by Julie Knittle, WA Department of Licensing, 2015 Region IV Conference of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, <https://www.aamva.org/2015-Region-IV-Conference-Presentations/>.

<sup>3</sup> "The Debt Spiral: How Chicago's Vehicle Ticketing Practices Unfairly Burden Low-Income and Minority Communities," Woodstock Institute, June 2018, <https://woodstockinst.org/research/reports/debt-spiral-how-chicagos-vehicle-ticketing-practices-unfairly-burden-low-income-and-minority-communities/>

<sup>4</sup> "Reducing Suspended Drivers and Alternative Reinstatement Best Practices," American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, November 2018, <https://www.aamva.org/ReducingSuspendedDriversAlternativeReinstatementBP/>

<sup>5</sup> In 2013, a national DMV association (the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators) could only identify 4 states suspending for parking tickets: Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Rhode Island. This is not comprehensive, but Illinois is in the minority. "Best Practices Guide to Reducing Suspended Drivers," American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, 2013, <http://www.aamva.org/Suspended-and-Revoked-Drivers-Working-Group/>.

<sup>6</sup> "Affordability and Fairness Task Force: Final Report," Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, 2006, [http://www.state.nj.us/mvc/pdf/About/AFTF\\_final\\_02.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/mvc/pdf/About/AFTF_final_02.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> "Living in Suspension," Chicago Jobs Council, February 2018, [https://cjc.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Living-in-Suspension\\_Report-by-CJC.pdf](https://cjc.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Living-in-Suspension_Report-by-CJC.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> "Racial Disparity in Consent Searches and Dog Sniff Searches," ACLU of Illinois, 2014, <http://www.aclu-il.org/racial-disparity-in-consent-searches-and-dog-sniff-searches/>.

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