

ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

**TESTIMONY ON 24-H 7125,
RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SUSPENSION OR
REVOCAION OF LICENSES – VIOLATIONS
May 2, 2024**

The ACLU of Rhode Island supports this bill, which would eliminate the requirement that individuals pay hefty reinstatement fees – up to \$350 – in order to get their right to drive restored after their license has been suspended or revoked.

It will often be the case that in order to get to the point of qualifying to get a suspended license reinstated, the driver will have to had to pay substantial fines and fees for the underlying violation that led to the suspension in the first place. It is counter-productive to then require the person to pay yet another fee – and an expensive one at that – in order to formally get their license reinstated. Indeed, we suspect that the current law may have the perverse effect of encouraging some individuals who are eligible for license reinstatement to instead start driving on their suspended license because they can't afford the reinstatement fee.

These reinstatement fees unnecessarily impose a substantial financial burden on residents who have complied with all that needed to be done to get their license back and need their car for work and other essential related services. That burden, when it is one, falls exclusively on lower-income individuals. We therefore support this legislation for eliminating this financial barrier to license reinstatement.

Thank you for considering our views.