License to Thrive

An introduction to the impacts of driver's license suspension elimination.

By:
Sarah Couture, Regional Director
Fines and Fees Justice Center
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JUSTICE CENTER

Who we are

FFJC is a national hub for the fines and fees reform movement, working with impacted communities, researchers, advocates, legislators, justice system stakeholders, and media all across the nation. Our goal is to create a justice system that treats individuals fairly, ensures public safety and community prosperity, and is funded equitably. We work together with affected communities and justice system stakeholders to eliminate fees in the justice system, ensure that fines are equitably imposed and enforced, and end abusive collection practices.

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End Driver's License Restrictions Related to Court Debt

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25 States Have Already Passed Reforms

Free to Drive National Campaign →

National campaign to end debt-based driver's license suspensions

Momentum is Accelerating →

25 states and D.C. have passed reforms to curb license suspensions since 2017

Reform is Bipartisan →

120+ organizations from across the political spectrum.



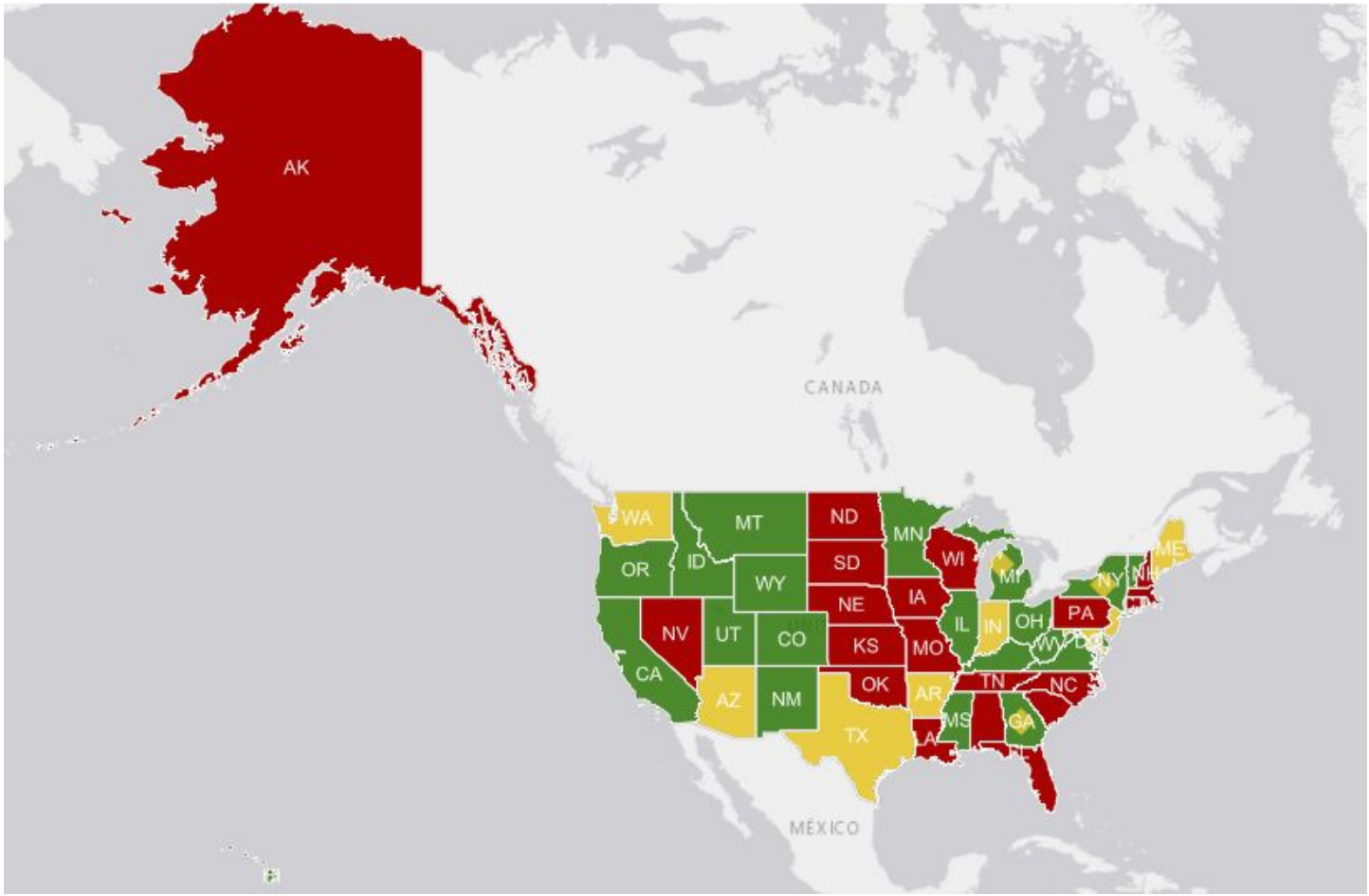
Where Reforms Have Happened

■= **State does not suspend, revoke, or prohibit** the renewal of driver's licenses for failure to pay.

Green states featuring "◆" icon: do not suspend driver's licenses but have some statutes that allow for failure to pay suspensions in specific cases.

■= State has partial or temporary reform of license suspension, revocation, or renewal practices for failure to pay.

■= **State still suspends** licenses for failure to pay.



Debt-Based Driver's License Suspensions:

- Cost people their livelihoods
- Cut economic growth
- Undermine public safety
- Do **not** compel payment of debts

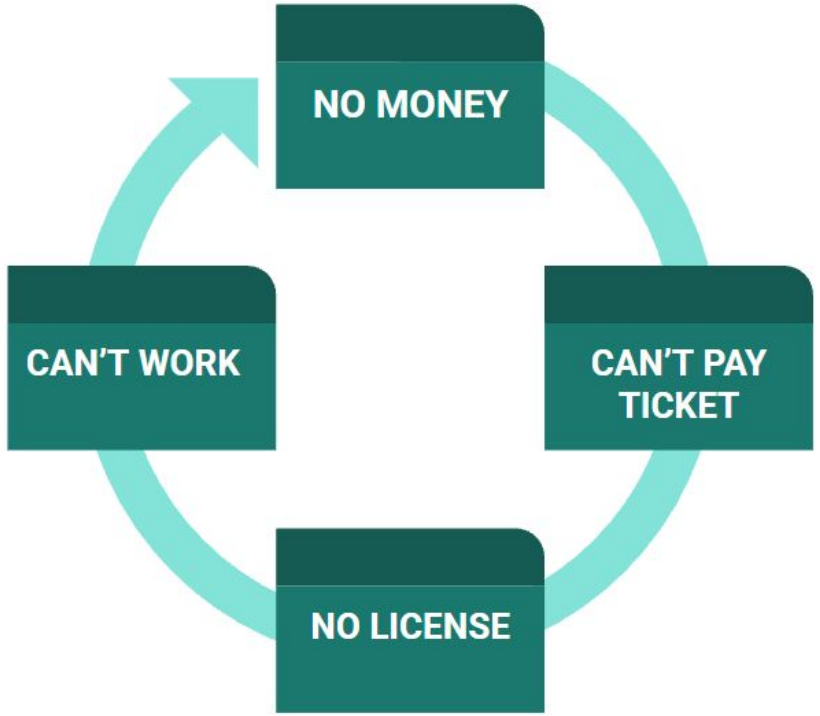
Ending Debt-Based Driver's License Suspensions:

- Increases employment
- Increases tax base and overall GDP
- Improves public safety

Debt-Based Driver's License Suspensions Don't Compel Payment

- The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators has stated, "there is no empirical evidence suggesting that people comply with requirements because their driving privilege was suspended as a result."

- Per Service Oklahoma the average length of a driver's license suspension for failure to pay is 3 years and 2 months.
- In NC, the average length of a driver's license suspension for court debt is 8.5 years!
- If DLS was an effective tool to compel payment suspensions would be short in length.



What has been the impact of DLS reform?

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REVENUE & COMPLIANCE:

Positive or Neutral Impacts

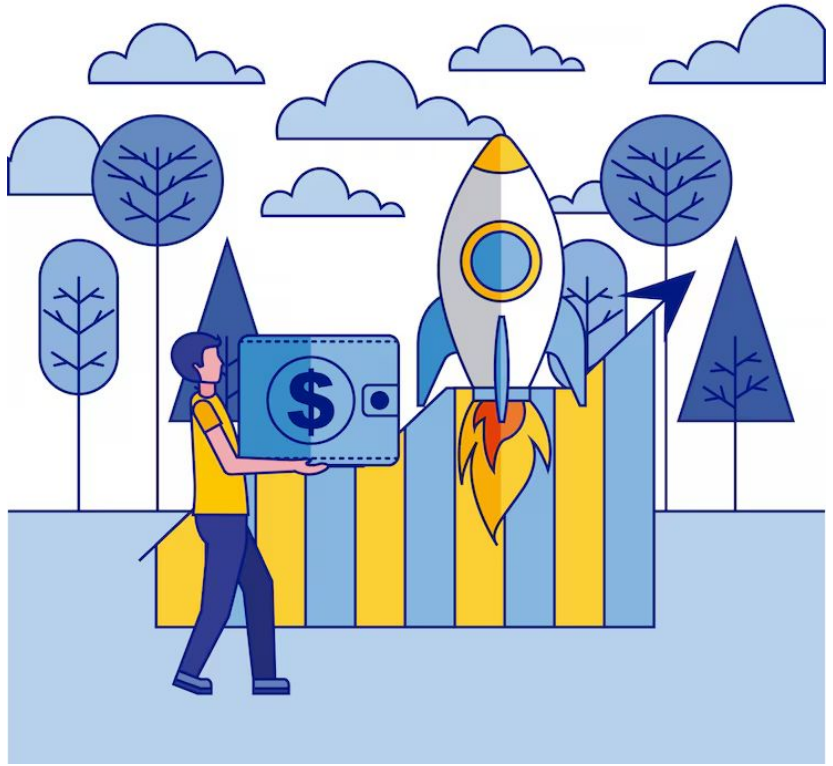
- In TX:
  - TX report showed that counties **not** using driver's license restrictions for fines and fees saw an average collection rate of $45 **more** per case than those using the program.
- In CA:
  - On-time collection compliance went up 9% after DLS ended statewide.
  - Some communities saw an increase in revenue without DLS.
- In ID and TN:
  - They didn't make or lose money due to reform.



ECONOMIC:

Economies Have Been Boosted

- Study in Phoenix, AZ
  - Driver's who got reinstated saw median income increase by $24,000
  - Local GDP Increase of $149.6 million
- Statewide Employment Increase
  - Research shows ending a state's ability to suspend a person's license due to a failure to pay (FTP) court debt or a failure to appear (FTA) in court can lead to a 1.3% increase in statewide employment within 2 and a half years.



PUBLIC SAFETY:

Law Enforcement Resources Redirected to Actual Safety Threats

- DLS diverts law enforcement resources away from more serious crimes.
  - AAMVA found “Law enforcement agencies spend millions of dollars and lose thousands of personnel hours each year in the administration of non-highway safety suspended driver enforcement.”
  - Union County, OH average of nine hours to arrest and prosecute for DWLS. Seven of those nine hours are the patrol officer’s time.
  - In Washington patrol officers saved an estimated 4,500 hours of patrol time due to 500 fewer arrests for DWLS each month.

What is comprehensive DLS reform?

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Comprehensive DLS Reform Includes:

- Ending suspensions for failure to pay
- Ending suspensions for failure to appear
- Automatic
- Retroactive
- Waives reinstatement fees

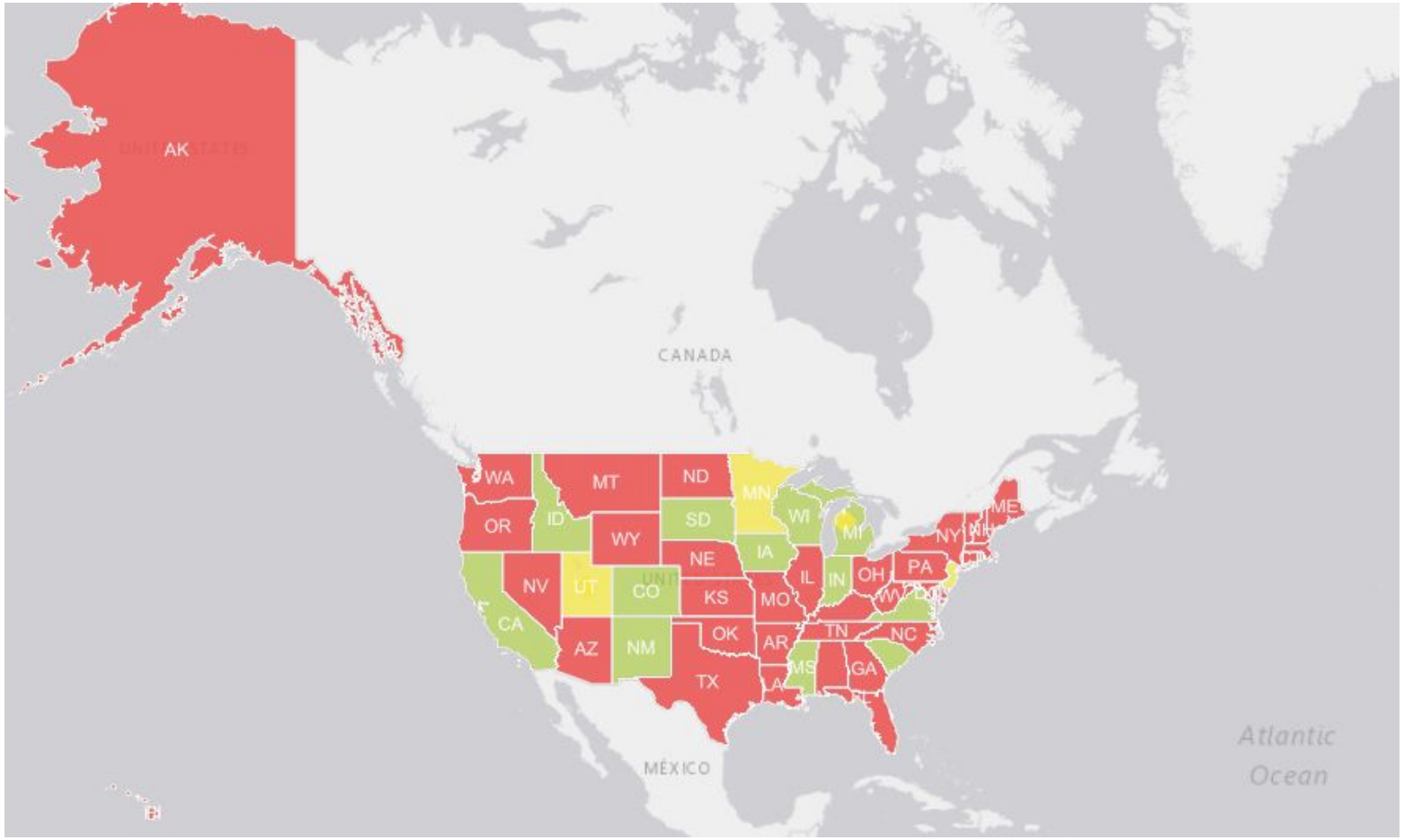


Failure to Appear Reforms:

■= **State does not suspend, revoke, or prohibit** the renewal of driver's licenses for failure to appear.

■= **State has partial or temporary reform** of license suspension, revocation, or renewal practices for failure to appear.

■= **State still suspends licenses for failure to appear.**



WORKFORCE:

Research shows that states that implemented comprehensive DLS reform saw an average employment increase of 1.3%

What could the potential economic impact of comprehensive DLS reform in Oklahoma be?

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Economic:

- More people working means more revenue for the state - it's a win-win
    - The **estimated total number of newly employed workers** who could enter your state's labor force from a 1.3% employment increase
      = **41,916**;
    - The **estimated collective gain in wages** these newly employed workers could experience
      = **$856,375,785**;
    - The **estimated value of state income tax revenue generated** by the newly employed workers' annual earnings
      = **$29,531,153**;
    - The **estimated value of state sales tax revenue generated** by the newly employed workers' anticipated spending
      = **$12,331,811**;
      ** **Note:** does not include local sales taxes that would also see an increase
    - The **estimated value of motor fuel tax** generated by newly employed workers' commutes
      = **$596,179**; **and**

An increased workforce would also logically result in reductions of state expenditures on public benefits – like Medicaid, SNAP, and other social welfare programs – due to increased earnings in populations often affected by DLS.

Economic:

- The estimated net fiscal tax revenue benefit that could return to the state post-reform

= **$42,459,144**

Thank You

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