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Sens. Ennis, Townsend, McDowell; Reps. Bolden, Gray,
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DELAWARE STATE SENATE
148th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 132

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 21 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE PROCEDURES FOR THE
SUSPENSION, NONRENEWAL, OR NONDUPLICATION OF DRIVER'S LICENSES OR DRIVING PRIVILEGES
FOR THE FAILURE TO RESOLVE MOTOR VEHICLE CHARGES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend § 709, Title 21 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
2 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

3 § 709. Payment of motor vehicle fines.

4 (j) *Failure to pay a voluntary assessment.* —

5 (1)a. The voluntary assessment center shall, pursuant to § 2731 of this title, forward to the Division of Motor
6 Vehicles ~~or its successor~~ the name and address of any driver who was issued a Uniform Traffic Complaint and
7 Summons for which a voluntary assessment could be made and who has failed to do one of the following:

8 a. ~~Failed to pay 1. Pay~~ the voluntary assessment within 30 days from the date of ~~arrest; and~~ arrest.

9 b. ~~Not notified 2. Notify~~ the court or voluntary assessment center within 30 days from the date of
10 arrest, in writing, that the driver is requesting a hearing on the charge stated in the Uniform Traffic Complaint
11 and Summons.

12 3. Appear at trial on the charge stated in the Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons on the date
13 and time required by the court.

14 4. Pay the fine on the charge stated in the Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons in accordance
15 with a deferred payment order.

16 b. The When the name and address of any driver has been forwarded to the Division of Motor Vehicles
17 under paragraph (j)(1)a. of this section, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall then suspend refuse to renew or issue
18 a duplicate of the driver's license for Delaware residents, or of a Delaware resident, in accordance with § 2732(g)
19 of this title.

20 c. When the name and address of any driver has been forwarded to the Division of Motor Vehicles under
21 paragraph (j)(1)a. of this section, the Division of Motor Vehicles may suspend the driving privileges in this State

22 of a nonresident of Delaware and immediately advise the Motor Vehicle Administrator of the state ~~wherein~~ in
23 which the person is a resident that the person's license to drive be suspended in accordance with ~~§ 2732(g)~~ §
24 2733(m) of this title.

25 (2) If a driver pays a voluntary assessment more than 30 days after the date of arrest, the voluntary assessment
26 center or court shall provide the driver with a receipt which shall serve as proof to the Division of Motor Vehicles that
27 the fine has been paid, upon request. The driver shall provide the voluntary assessment center with a self-addressed,
28 stamped envelope in order to receive a copy of the receipt by mail. Such payment shall be an admission of guilt, a
29 waiver of the right to a hearing, and a complete satisfaction of the violation, except as provided in paragraph (i)(2) of
30 this section.

31 (3) If a driver who has failed to pay a voluntary assessment or request a hearing within 30 days of the date of
32 arrest appears at court, the charge shall be prosecuted as if the voluntary assessment had not been permitted and the
33 officer shall swear to the Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons prior to trial. The minimum fine provisions of
34 subsection (g) shall not apply. If the driver who appears pleads not guilty, the court shall provide the driver with a copy
35 of the appearance bond to provide as proof of court appearance to the Division of Motor Vehicles ~~or its successor~~.

36 ~~(4) The court shall forward to the Division of Motor Vehicles or its successor the name and address of any~~
37 ~~driver who fails to appear for trial on the date and time required by the court, or who fails to comply with a deferred~~
38 ~~payment order, on a motor vehicle charge issued under this section. The Division of Motor Vehicles shall then suspend~~
39 ~~the driver's license for Delaware residents, or may suspend the driving privileges in this State of a nonresident of~~
40 ~~Delaware and immediately advise the Motor Vehicle Administrator of the state wherein the person is a resident that the~~
41 ~~person's license to drive be suspended in accordance with § 2732(g) of this title.~~

42 Section 2. Amend § 809, Title 21 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
43 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

44 § 809. Suspension of license.

45 When a person's name and address is forwarded to the Division of Motor Vehicles pursuant to § 808(b) of this title
46 and the offense was 1 for which the person received personal service of the notice or summons, or the offense was 1 for
47 which service was made by mail and the person has either requested a hearing and failed to appear or been found
48 responsible for the offense and failed to pay the civil penalty, costs, or ~~both~~ both, either at the time of the order or in
49 accordance with a payment schedule, the Division of Motor Vehicles:

50 (1) ~~If the person is a resident of this State, shall~~ Shall forthwith suspend the person's driver's license of a
51 resident of this State, unless the person's name and address was forwarded to the Division of Motor Vehicles under
52 § 709(j) of this title, in which case the provisions of § 709(j) of this title shall apply. ~~or;~~

53 (2) ~~If the person is a nonresident of this State, may~~ May suspend the person's driving privileges in this State of
54 a nonresident of this State and immediately advise the motor vehicle administrator of the state ~~wherein~~ in which the
55 person is a resident that the person's license to drive be suspended until proof is provided that the person has paid the
56 civil penalty, costs, or both, ~~or~~ has appeared in court following a default in appearance or payment and made
57 arrangements to pay the civil ~~penalty or~~ penalty, costs or both, or both, or has had a default judgment vacated and been
58 found not responsible.

59 Section 3. Amend § 2731, Title 21 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
60 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

61 § 2731. Duty of courts and police officers.

62 (c) The voluntary assessment center shall forward to the Department ~~or its successor~~ a record of the name and
63 address of each person who has been given a Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons on which a voluntary assessment
64 was permitted pursuant to § 709 of this title and who has failed to do any of the following: (1) has failed to pay the
65 voluntary assessment within 30 days from the date of arrest; and (2) has not notified the court or voluntary assessment
66 center with 30 days from the date of arrest, in writing, that the person wishes to have a hearing on the charge stated in the
67 Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons; or (3) has failed to appear at trial on such charge(s) on the time and date
68 required by the court; or (4) has failed to pay the fine on such charge(s) in accordance with a deferred payment order, the
69 Department or its successor shall: (1) if the person is a resident of this State, forthwith suspend the person's license until the
70 person provides evidence to the Department that the fine has been paid, or that the person has appeared before the court and
71 made arrangements to take care of the charge(s); or has been adjudicated not guilty; and (2) if the person is a nonresident of
72 this State, the Department may suspend the person's driving privileges in this State and immediately advise the motor
73 vehicle administrator of the state wherein the person is a resident that the person's license to drive be suspended until the
74 person provides evidence that the fine has been paid, or that the person has appeared before the court and made
75 arrangements to take care of the charge(s) or has been adjudicated not guilty.

76 (1) Pay the voluntary assessment within 30 days from the date of arrest.

77 (2) Notify the court or voluntary assessment center with 30 days from the date of arrest, in writing, that the
78 person wishes to have a hearing on the charge stated in the Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons.

79 (3) Appear at trial on the charge stated in the Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons on the date and time
80 required by the court.

81 (4) Pay the fine on the charge stated in the Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons in accordance with a
82 deferred payment order.

83 Section 4. Amend § 2732, Title 21 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
84 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

85 § 2732. Mandatory revocation or suspension of license or refusal to renew or issue a duplicate license.

86 ~~(g) Upon receiving a record that a person has been given a Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons indicating~~
87 ~~that a voluntary assessment may be made and that such person: (1) has failed to pay the voluntary assessment within 30~~
88 ~~days from the date of arrest; and (2) has not notified the court or voluntary assessment center within 30 days from the date~~
89 ~~of arrest, in writing, that the person wishes to request a hearing on the charge(s) stated in the Uniform Traffic Complaint~~
90 ~~and Summons; or (3) has failed to appear at trial on such charge(s) on the time and date required by the court, or (4) has~~
91 ~~failed to pay the fine on such charge(s) in accordance with a deferred payment order, the Department or its successor shall~~
92 ~~(1) if the person is a resident of this State, forthwith suspend the person's license until the person provides evidence to the~~
93 ~~Department that the fine has been paid or that the person has appeared before the court and made arrangements to take care~~
94 ~~of the charge(s) or has been adjudicated not guilty; and (2) if the person is a nonresident of this State, the Department may~~
95 ~~suspend the person's driving privileges in this State and immediately advise the motor vehicle administrator of the state~~
96 ~~wherein the person is a resident that the person's license to drive be suspended until the person provides evidence that the~~
97 ~~fine has been paid or that the person has appeared before the court and made arrangements to take care of the charge(s) or~~
98 ~~has been adjudicated not guilty. When the name and address of a resident of this State has been forwarded to the~~
99 ~~Department under § 2731(c) of this title, the Department shall refuse to renew the person's license or issue any duplicate~~
100 ~~license to the person until the person provides evidence to the Department that any of the following has occurred:~~

101 (1) The fine on the charge stated in the Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons has been paid.

102 (2) The person has appeared before the court and made arrangements to take care of the charge stated in the
103 Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons.

104 (3) The person has been adjudicated not guilty of the charge stated in the Uniform Traffic Complaint and
105 Summons.

106 Section 5. Amend § 2733, Title 21 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
107 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

108 § 2733. Discretionary suspension or revocation of license or driving privileges.

109 (l) Except when the name and address of a resident of this State has been forwarded to the Department under
110 § 2731(c) of this title, The the Department may, upon receiving a record, ~~notice~~ notice, or certification of noncompliance by
111 a person for a citation, summons, ~~ticket~~ ticket, or other document issued by an arresting officer for violation of a traffic law,
112 ordinance, ~~rule~~ rule, or regulation ordering the arrested motorist to appear, suspend the driver's license ~~and/or~~ or driving
113 privileges of the person who failed to comply. The Department shall not have this power of suspension in cases of parking
114 violations.

115 (m) When the name and address of a nonresident of this State has been forwarded to the Department under
116 § 2731(c) of this title, the Department may suspend the person's driving privileges in this State and immediately advise the
117 motor vehicle administrator of the state in which the person is a resident that the person's license to drive be suspended until
118 the person provides evidence that any of the following has occurred:

119 (1) The fine on the charge stated in the Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons has been paid.

120 (2) The person has appeared before the court and made arrangements to take care of the charge stated in the
121 Uniform Traffic Complaint and Summons.

122 (3) The person has been adjudicated not guilty of the charge stated in the Uniform Traffic Complaint and
123 Summons.

124 Section 6. This Act becomes effective 180 days after its enactment into law.

SYNOPSIS

This Act provides that driver's licenses will not be renewed nor will duplicate licenses be issued if there are outstanding fines or fees for minor traffic offenses subject to voluntary assessment until such fees are paid by the license applicant. Licenses will not be suspended in these cases. Suspension is reserved for offenses affecting traffic safety such as reckless driving, driving under the influence, leaving the scene of an accident, multiple speeding or other offenses.

This Act also makes technical corrections to conform existing law to the guidelines of the *Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual*.

Author: Senator Henry