

DLS Ideas from Court Diversion, DMV, VJB
2/13/14

1. Authorize the VJB to create standardized ways to extend the date judgment is due.
 - a. This legislative authority would allow the VJB to spread the word about the 30/30 plan and other possible options yet to be developed.
 - b. Suggested wording to add to 23 VSA Sec. 2307(b) “If the defendant fails to pay the amount due within 30 days, or by a date as determined by a judicial officer, of the notice the Judicial Bureau shall provide electronic notice thereof to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles who, after 20 days from the date of receiving the electronic notice, shall suspend....”
2. Extend to those individuals who pay off their debt without going through the Diversion program the benefit of having OSCs not be counted as prior offenses leading toward a criminal charge. 23 VSA Sec. 674(a)(3)
3. Limit license suspension for failure to pay fines.
 - a. Cap suspension at 120 days. A time-limited suspension would retain the power of the threat of suspension which is a motivator for many to pay. Within 120 days, those who have not paid would have been referred to A1 (collections) and started a payment plan. Regardless of payments made, a person would be eligible for license reinstatement after 120 days. After 120 days, suspension would cease to become a motivator for payment. The State would have to use other motivators, like tax refund setoff and denial of professional license renewal. This approach would be more effective with Vermont residents, not as much with out-of-state people.