

Background:

Prior to the enactment of Act 147, failure to pay a traffic fine resulted in an indefinite license or privilege-to-operate suspension. Many Vermonters who were unable to pay their initial traffic ticket, but who needed to drive in order to get to work, were left with no option but to drive with their license suspended. Many of these Vermonters would then receive more tickets for driving while their license was suspended and other violations, creating a never-ending cycle of people getting more tickets that they could not pay simply for trying to get to work. As a result, the legislature eliminated the use of license suspensions as an incentive to pay traffic fines.

2017 Driver License and Privilege-to-Operate Suspensions:

- 1. Total number of suspensions imposed in calendar year 2017: 22,995**
 - A. Nonpayment of a traffic violation: 9,651
 - B. Accumulation of points against a person's driving record: 2,198
 - C. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. §§ 1206 and 1208 (criminal DUI convictions): 1,523
 - D. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1205 (civil DUI suspensions): 1,419
 - E. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1216 (civil DUI suspensions; under 21 years of age): 99
 - F. 7 V.S.A. § 656 (underage alcohol violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 245
 - G. 18 V.S.A. § 4230b
(underage marijuana violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 143
- 2. Number of unique individuals whose licenses were suspended in 2017: 13,751**
Number of unique individuals whose licenses were suspended in 2017 and whose address of record is Vermont: 10,788
- 3. Total number of active suspensions in effect¹: 283,057**
 - A. Nonpayment of a traffic violation: 144,664
 - B. Accumulation of points against a person's driving record: 36,771
 - C. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. §§ 1206 and 1208 (criminal DUI convictions): 25,544
 - D. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1205 (civil DUI suspensions): 20,995
 - E. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1216 (civil DUI suspensions; under 21 years of age): 1,135
 - F. 7 V.S.A. § 656 (underage alcohol violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 3,491
 - G. 18 V.S.A. § 4230b
(underage marijuana violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 314
- 4. Number of unique individuals with pending suspensions in effect: 96,389**
Number of unique individuals with pending suspensions in effect and whose address of record is Vermont: 50,654

¹Total active suspensions in effect as of 1/8/2018