In 2016, the Vermont Legislature passed Act 147 into law. The aim of the legislation was to limit the use of driver license suspensions to driving offenses and for failure to pay traffic tickets stemming from actual motor vehicle violations.

In accordance with Act 147 of 2016, Section 23, the Department of Motor Vehicles has prepared the following report on Driver License/Privilege-to-Operate Suspensions for Calendar Year 2019.
Background:

Prior to the enactment of Act 147 of 2016, 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.

2019 Driver License and Privilege-to-Operate Suspensions:

1. Total number of suspensions imposed in calendar year 2019: 12,529
   A. Nonpayment of a traffic violation: 3,163
   B. Accumulation of points against a person’s driving record: 1,752
   C. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. §§ 1206 and 1208 (criminal DUI convictions): 1,277
   D. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1205 (civil DUI suspensions): 1,236
   E. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1216 (civil DUI suspensions; under 21 years of age): 64
   F. 7 V.S.A. § 656 (underage alcohol violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 207
   G. 18 V.S.A. § 4230b (underage marijuana violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 72

2. Number of unique individuals whose licenses were suspended in 2019: 9,390
   Number of unique individuals whose licenses were suspended in 2019 and whose address of record is Vermont: 8,123

3. Total number of active suspensions in effect: 269,757
   A. Nonpayment of a traffic violation: 132,404
   B. Accumulation of points against a person’s driving record: 34,535
   C. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. §§ 1206 and 1208 (criminal DUI convictions): 25,216
   D. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1205 (civil DUI suspensions): 20,776
   E. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1216 (civil DUI suspensions; under 21 years of age): 1,032
   F. 7 V.S.A. § 656 (underage alcohol violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 3,343
   G. 18 V.S.A. § 4230b (underage marijuana violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 318

4. Number of unique individuals with pending suspensions in effect: 95,285
   Number of unique individuals with pending suspensions in effect and whose address of record is Vermont: 49,528

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1 Total active suspensions in effect as of 1/2/2020
To: House and Senate Committees on Judiciary  
House and Senate Committees on Transportation  

From: Wanda Minoli, Commissioner, Department of Motor Vehicles  

Date: January 15, 2019  

Subject: Annual Report - Driver License Suspensions Calendar Year 2018

In 2016, the Vermont Legislature passed Act 147 into law. The aim of the legislation was to limit the use of driver license suspensions to driving offenses and for failure to pay traffic tickets stemming from actual motor vehicle violations.

In accordance with Act 147 of 2016, Section 23, the Department of Motor Vehicles has prepared the following report on Driver License/Privilege-to-Operate Suspensions for Calendar Year 2018.
Background:

Prior to the enactment of Act 147 of 2016, 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.

2018 Driver License and Privilege-to-Operate Suspensions:

1. **Total number of suspensions imposed in calendar year 2018: 17,955**
   - Nonpayment of a traffic violation: 8,779
   - Accumulation of points against a person’s driving record: 1,824
   - Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. §§ 1206 and 1208 (criminal DUI convictions): 1,382
   - Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1205 (civil DUI suspensions): 1,382
   - Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1216 (civil DUI suspensions; under 21 years of age): 70
   - 7 V.S.A. § 656 (underage alcohol violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 315
   - 18 V.S.A. § 4230b (underage marijuana violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 125

2. **Number of unique individuals whose licenses were suspended in 2018: 12,598**
   Number of unique individuals whose licenses were suspended in 2018 and whose address of record is Vermont: 10,124

3. **Total number of active suspensions in effect**: 278,581
   - Nonpayment of a traffic violation: 140,797
   - Accumulation of points against a person’s driving record: 35,648
   - Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. §§ 1206 and 1208 (criminal DUI convictions): 25,411
   - Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1205 (civil DUI suspensions): 20,996
   - Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1216 (civil DUI suspensions; under 21 years of age): 1,078
   - 7 V.S.A. § 656 (underage alcohol violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 3,427
   - 18 V.S.A. § 4230b (underage marijuana violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 328

4. **Number of unique individuals with pending suspensions in effect**: 96,967
   Number of unique individuals with pending suspensions in effect and whose address of record is Vermont: 50,754

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1 Total active suspensions in effect as of 1/8/2019
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 effect: 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

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

**2016 Driver License and Privilege-to-Operate Suspensions:**

1. **Total number of suspensions imposed in calendar year 2016: 21,194**
   - A. Nonpayment of a traffic violation: 11,969
   - B. Accumulation of points against a person’s driving record: 2,035
   - C. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. §§ 1206 and 1208 (criminal DUI convictions): 1,345
   - D. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1205 (civil DUI suspensions): 1,478
   - E. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1216 (civil DUI suspensions; under 21 years of age): 95
   - F. 7 V.S.A. § 656 (underage alcohol violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 216
   - G. 18 V.S.A. § 4230b (underage marijuana violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 110

2. Number of unique individuals whose licenses were suspended in 2016: 13,852
   Number of unique individuals whose licenses were suspended in 2016 and whose address of record is Vermont: 11,297

3. **Total number of active suspensions in effect**: 288,653
   - A. Nonpayment of a traffic violation: 148,585
   - B. Accumulation of points against a person’s driving record: 37,990
   - C. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. §§ 1206 and 1208 (criminal DUI convictions): 25,666
   - D. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1205 (civil DUI suspensions): 21,042
   - E. Pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1216 (civil DUI suspensions; under 21 years of age): 1,166
   - F. 7 V.S.A. § 656 (underage alcohol violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 3,626
   - G. 18 V.S.A. § 4230b (underage marijuana violation; failure to report to or complete Diversion): 251

4. Number of unique individuals with pending suspensions in effect: 95,935
   Number of unique individuals with pending suspensions in effect and whose address of record is Vermont: 50,720

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1 Total active suspensions in effect as of 1/12/2017