1	H.25
2	Introduced by Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Dolan of Essex
3	Junction, and Rachelson of Burlington
4	Referred to Committee on
5	Date:
6	Subject: Motor vehicles; operation of vehicles; impaired driving;
7	rehabilitation; program fees
8	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that
9	the Department of Health's Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program fees be
10	imposed based on an individual's gross income compared to the federal
11	poverty level. The bill proposes that an individual who requests a reduction or
12	elimination of program fees disclose the individual's income. Using the
13	disclosed income, the Program must charge a higher fee if the individual has
14	greater financial resources and a lower fee if the individual has lesser financial
15	resources.
16	An act relating to imposing Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program fees
17	based on a person's ability to pay

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1	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
2	Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1209a is amended to read:
3	§ 1209a. CONDITIONS OF REINSTATEMENT; ALCOHOL AND
4	DRIVING EDUCATION; SCREENING; THERAPY PROGRAMS
5	(a) Conditions of reinstatement. No license or privilege to operate
6	suspended or revoked under this subchapter, except a license or privilege to
7	operate suspended under section 1216 of this title, shall be reinstated except as
8	follows:
9	(1) In the case of a first suspension, a license or privilege to operate
10	shall be reinstated only:
11	(A) after the individual has successfully completed the Alcohol and
12	Driving Education Program, at the individual's own expense, followed by an
13	assessment of the need for further treatment by a State-designated counselor, at
14	the individual's own expense, to determine whether reinstatement should be
15	further conditioned on satisfactory completion of a therapy program agreed to
16	by the individual and the Drinking Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program
17	Director;
18	(B) if the screening indicates that therapy is needed, after the
19	individual has satisfactorily completed or shown substantial progress in
20	completing a therapy program at the individual's own expense agreed to by the

individual and the **Impaired** Driver Rehabilitation Program Director;

1	(C) if the individual elects to operate under an ignition interlock RDL
2	or ignition interlock certificate, after the individual operates under the RDL or
3	certificate for the applicable period set forth in subsection 1205(a) or section
4	1206 of this title, plus any extension of this period arising from a violation of
5	section 1213 of this title; and
6	(D) if the individual has no pending criminal charges, civil citations,
7	or unpaid fines or penalties for a violation under this chapter.
8	* * *
9	(f) Fees.
10	(1)(A) The Department of Health's Drinking Impaired Driver
11	Rehabilitation Program shall assess fees for the Alcohol and Driving Education
12	Program and the alcohol assessment screening required by subdivision
13	(a)(1)(A) of this section. The fee for the Alcohol and Driving Education
14	Program shall not exceed \$250.00. The fee for the alcohol assessment
15	screening shall not exceed \$200.00. In the case of a more intensive or
16	weekend residential program combining both the Alcohol and Driving
17	Education Program and the alcohol assessment screening, the total charge shall
18	not exceed \$625.00.
19	(B) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and the Department of
20	Health's Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program shall engage in education and

1	outreach to ensure that individuals eligible to enroll in the Program are aware
2	of any required fees and any potential fee discounts.
3	(2)(A) Upon an individual's request, any discounted fees charged
4	pursuant to this subsection (f) shall consider the individual's annual gross
5	income prior to imposing such a fee.
6	(B) The Commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter
7	25 establishing a graduated fee schedule bearing a reasonable relationship to an
8	individual's gross income. An individual shall be found eligible for a program
9	fee reduction based upon the federal poverty level.
10	(i) An individual with an annual gross income of less than or equal
11	to 175 percent of the current federal poverty guidelines shall not pay any
12	program fees.
13	(ii) An individual with an annual gross income of up to and
14	including 575 percent of the current federal poverty guidelines shall be eligible
15	for discounted program fees.
16	(C) An individual seeking a fee reduction to enroll in any program or
17	screening under this section shall disclose the individual's gross income. Any
18	income information disclosed by the individual shall remain confidential and
19	be solely used for the purpose of assessing any fee reduction for the individual
20	as required by this subsection (f).

1	(3) Charges collected under this section shall be credited to separate
2	special funds for each type of service and shall be available to the Department
3	of Health to offset the cost of operating the Drinking Impaired Driver
4	Rehabilitation Program.
5	Sec. 2. RULE IMPLEMENTATION DATE
6	The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt the rules required by this
7	act on or before January 1, 2026.
8	Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE
9	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.