

Department of Motor Vehicles

Wendy Spooner, Chief of Driver Improvement, Information, and E-Services

“With a commitment to excellence, the dedicated employees of DMV strive to provide the highest level of customer service through the administration of motor vehicle laws and the promotion of highway safety.”

As of April 2026, there are 1,555 customers with an RDL license and 36 customers with an OOS RDL certificate



Is it mandatory to have an RDL?

For all first offenses, it is voluntary if someone wants to drive before the suspension has been fully served.

For all second and subsequent offenses that happened before July 1, 2016, it is voluntary.

For all second and subsequent offenses that happened after July 1, 2016, it is mandatory. A person cannot serve out their term of suspension without getting the IID.

If someone had a negligent or grossly negligent offense that was amended down from a DUI criminal charge, they are eligible

Drug-only charges alone are not eligible

A combination of open drug and alcohol charges is eligible



If a person refuses to take a breath test,
there is a hard suspension term that must
be served before they can apply for an
RDL

1st offense - 30 days

2nd offense - 90 days

3rd offense - 1 year

How long does someone need RDL?

- >1st offense - 90 days for BAC or 6 months for refusal
 - >1st offense only, can be a combination of time served and RDL usage through the RDL program
- >2nd offense - 18 months from the date of reinstatement through the RDL program
- >3rd offense - 3 years from the date of reinstatement through the RDL program
- >A minor who has received a 21A/B/C/D traffic ticket is eligible to get an RDL. The person will be required to have an RDL for 6 months
 - >For 18 months or their 21st birthday, whichever is longer, for a second/subsequent offense

Vermont residency is not required to apply for the Vermont RDL program.

- ▶ If someone has alcohol offenses in Vermont and they are an OOS resident, they will be issued an out-of-state restriction card rather than being issued a license
- ▶ If someone has an OOS IID requirement and comes to VT to get a license, they will be issued a regular license with the T (ignition interlock device) restriction
 - ▶ They will not be part of the VT RDL program

The cost varies per manufacturer.

The average cost:

Installation: \$111

Monthly Fee: \$99

Calibrations (30-60 days): \$34

Removal:\$86

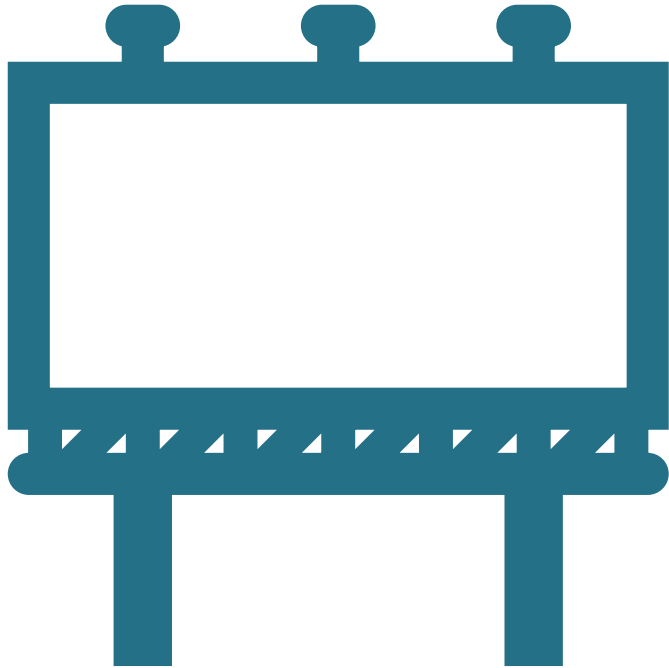
Recipients of 3SquaresVT, LIHEAP, and Reach Up are eligible for a 50% discount on the installation, maintenance, and removal of the device. A customer would need to provide a copy of their benefit letter to the Driver Improvement Supervisor for approval.

costs



The cost of a restricted driver's license is \$125

That is the cost for both the first issuance and each renewal



For 3rd and subsequent offenses, the Total Abstinence (TA) program is required if you want to be released from the RDL. An RDL participant is required to have an RDL for 3 consecutive years before they can apply for TA.

When you apply, you will need to complete an application and pay a \$500 fee.

The DMV Enforcement unit runs the TA program.

If someone re-offends, whether it be drugs or alcohol, the person will be removed from the TA program.

The F restriction will be removed, and they will be required to have an IID for life.



How do you get released?

Serve the RDL required term

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graph TD; A[Serve the RDL required term] --> B[Complete the required IDR/TA requirements]; B --> C[If the civil alcohol hearing is requested, the civil compliance must be submitted to the DMV by the respective court]; C --> D[Once all the conditions are met, the Driver Control unit will mail a release letter to the customer];
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Complete the required IDR/TA requirements

If the civil alcohol hearing is requested, the civil compliance must be submitted to the DMV by the respective court

Once all the conditions are met, the Driver Control unit will mail a release letter to the customer

Contact Information

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For more information regarding
RDL:

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