



THE LAW

Act 138 of 2024 (SB 1118) was signed into law on October 31, 2024. The law became effective on April 30, 2026.

The Act amends both Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and Title 75 (Vehicles) to provide an alternative adjudication program for certain offenses and requires courts to determine someone's ability to pay, prior to adjudication. It also directs the Department of Transportation to waive the restoration fee for people who meet one of the following criteria:

1. Enter a program of community service in lieu of paying fines,
2. Make an agreement for installment payments, or
3. Are found unable to pay.

This law also creates the Relief from Administrative Suspension Program, which grants relief for individuals who properly apply for and meet the criteria for eligibility.

WHAT THE LAW DOES

Individuals will now have 30 days (instead of the previous 15 days) to respond before a court will notify PennDOT to impose a suspension.

The options for satisfying court obligations now include paying all fines, restitutions, and penalties in full; entering into an agreement to make installment payments; or making an arrangement with the court to enter into a program of community service.

For those who enter into the installment payment or community service agreement and default in meeting the expectations, PennDOT will reimpose the appropriate suspension.

The required restoration fee will be waived for individuals who enter into an installment agreement or a community service agreement or who are deemed unable to pay by the courts.

This law creates the Relief from Administrative Suspension Program, which grants relief for individuals who properly apply for and meet the criteria for eligibility. The law lays out the responsibilities of individuals who are applying, as well as the Department that is administering the program.

This law also amends Title 75, Section 1543.1 to provide clarification on penalties for first, second, or subsequent offenses for individuals who drive a motor vehicle on any highway or trafficway while their operating privilege is suspended.

WHAT THE LAW DOES NOT DO

The law does not end or rescind any other active or pending driving privilege suspensions imposed that are unrelated to the suspensions covered under the law, nor does it remove the record of the conviction, adjudication of delinquency, or admission into a pre-adjudication program from the driver record.

COMMUNITY SERVICE IN LIEU OF FINES

Prior to Act 138 of 2024, community service was an option for satisfying court obligations for violations that did not include traffic-related citations. This law now grants courts the authority to make arrangements for community service programs as a way for individuals who are deemed unable to pay to satisfy their obligations. If entered into an agreement for community service, a person must meet all requirements of the program as instructed by the court. If the supervising court reports a person has defaulted, PennDOT will reimpose the appropriate suspension under Section 1533 of the Vehicle Code.

RELIEF FROM ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION PROGRAM

Through the Relief from Administrative Suspension Program, PennDOT will remove certain suspensions for individuals who properly apply for and meet the criteria for eligibility.

To be eligible for the Program an individual must meet ALL the following criteria:

1. A person's driving privilege has been indefinitely suspended under section 1533 (a), (b), or (d) relating to failing to respond to a citation BEFORE April 30, 2026.
2. A person's driving privilege either will be or is suspended for a conviction under 1543(a) only as a result of a suspension imposed under section 1532 (b)(2), 1533, or 6146 BEFORE April 30, 2026.
3. The individual has served their suspension required for the underlying offense that resulted in a violation of section 1533 (a), (b), or (d).
4. The individual has met all the application requirements for this program.

APPLYING FOR RELIEF FROM ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION

The appropriate application on form DL-3732 should be completed in full and mailed to PennDOT at the following address:

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Bureau of Driver Licensing
Restorations Unit
P.O. Box 68688
Harrisburg, PA 17106-8688

In addition to the completed application, individuals must submit the following items with their completed application.

1. Restoration fee.
2. Proof of Insurance, or if the individual does not own a motor vehicle currently registered in this Commonwealth, a completed DL-17 or signed statement certifying that they do not own a motor vehicle currently registered in this Commonwealth.

Once the application is received, PennDOT has 30 days to review and make a determination of someone's eligibility based on the application submitted.

The court must notify and confirm to PennDOT the individual has completed or satisfied all court-ordered requirements prior to the application being approved and the driver's license being restored.

HOW TO DETERMINE RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS

Information on the requirements to restore an individual's driving privilege can be found in a restoration requirements letter. A free restoration requirements letter can be easily obtained in real-time on PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website at www.pa.gov/dmv/restoration. On this page, select "Request Your Driver's License Restoration Requirements Letter." Follow the instructions on the next page to view and print a restoration requirements letter. You can also receive a restoration requirements letter via mail by calling PennDOT's Customer Care Center at 717-412-5300.