

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS LIZ BREADON, HENRY SANTANA BENJAMIN WEBER,
DURKAN, COLETTA ZAPATA, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY, MEJIA, PEPÉN,
WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF S.2368 AND H.3662, “AN ACT TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITY BY ENDING DEBT-BASED DRIVING RESTRICTIONS”

WHEREAS, Driver’s license suspensions due to unpaid fines and fees for infraction unrelated to road safety, such as for outstanding EZ-pass fees or parking tickets, are common in Massachusetts; *and*

WHEREAS, A *Boston Globe* report found that the State Registry of Motor Vehicles placed drivers licenses in non-renewal status three million times during a five-year period because of unpaid tolls or other debts unrelated to road safety; *and*

WHEREAS, Having a license in non-renewal status can bar you from renewing your license once it expires until all debts are paid in full; *and*

WHEREAS, Drivers can be in a situation where they are not aware of outstanding fees until it is time to renew their license, and then lose their license solely because they are unable to pay in full the thousands of dollars needed to satisfy their debts; *and*

WHEREAS, Currently there is no mechanism in place to restore a driver’s license that was lost solely due to financial hardship; *and*

WHEREAS, Suspending one’s license for reasons unrelated to safe driving can impact their ability to drive to and from work, school, job interviews, medical appointments, or the grocery store, potentially hampering economic growth, causing housing instability, undermining public safety, and destabilizing low income workers; *and*

WHEREAS, Representative Brandy Fluker-Reid and Senator Julian Cyr filed H.3662 and S.2368, *An Act to increase opportunity by ending debt-based driving restrictions*, which would end the Commonwealth’s practice of restricting drivers’ licenses solely due to outstanding fines and fees; *and*

WHEREAS, This legislation would also require electronic notification via email and text message to drivers who have unpaid fines and fees and allow the driver to request a noncriminal hearing to determine an assessment reduction in fines and fees or waiver based on financial hardship; *and*

WHEREAS, The proposed legislation would help prevent the cycle of debt that can be a trap for those already in or near poverty; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council goes on record in support of H.3662 and S.2368, and urges the state legislature to act on this legislation so that it can become law.

Filed on: July 9, 2025