



TO: House Transportation & Public Safety Committee  
FROM: Gary Daniels, Chief Lobbyist, ACLU of Ohio  
DATE: November 8, 2017  
RE: House Bill 260

To Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation & Public Safety Committee, my name is Gary Daniels, chief lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio ("ACLU of Ohio") and I appear to present proponent testimony on House Bill 260.

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House Bill 260 is a much-needed bill that will positively impact countless Ohioans should it become law. HB 260 requires courts and judges to grant limited driving privileges when a driver's license is suspended but the underlying offense has no relation to the operation or physical control of a vehicle.

For those concerned about judicial oversight, like current law, HB 260 still permits courts to specify the purposes, times, and places where a person with a suspended driver's license may legally drive. HB 260 also maintains the current provision allowing judges' discretion for other driving privileges they deem to be appropriate.

The impact of HB 260 should not be underestimated. Too often, Ohioans find themselves struggling in a cycle of incarceration, criminal convictions, bail they cannot afford, and unpaid court fines & fees. Some of these events result in suspended driver's licenses. Yet, it appears almost everyone with a suspended license continues to drive. Should they be stopped by law enforcement while having a suspended license, for many, this cycle will continue.

HB 260 wisely recognizes these realities and improves a decades-old long pattern of punishing a person for committing a crime then making it very difficult for them to improve their lives or reintegrate into society simply because they are not permitted to drive or their driving and transportation options are very limited.

Just because we can suspend licenses does not mean we should. In this case, eliminating many of the reasons an Ohioan can find themselves with no driving privileges is a positive development.

It is worth mentioning HB 260 and current practices could be further improved by enacting legislation to simply and entirely do away with driver's license suspensions for these infractions. In lieu of that, the ACLU of Ohio urges your support for House Bill 260.