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MVD lifts suspensions for failure to pay or appear in court

SANTA FE—The New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division has lifted suspensions on more than 100,000 New Mexico driver's licenses pursuant to legislation enacted in the 2023 session.

Under Senate Bill 47, drivers whose licenses were suspended solely for failure to pay a fine or failure to appear in court were eligible to have their driving privileges restored.

Suspensions also were cleared on more than 160,000 out-of-state drivers with New Mexico citations, and MVD is notifying those drivers' home states.

The underlying citations and any fines associated with them remain on drivers' records and drivers may still need to comply with other court orders related to their cases.

The law does not apply to commercial driver's licenses nor to suspensions for other reasons, such as accumulating too many infraction points, for being habitually reckless or negligent and for other reasons under state law. Drivers with those suspensions may still be required to pay a reinstatement fee to restore their driving privileges.

There was no reinstatement fee for suspensions lifted under the new law. However, drivers who allowed their licenses to expire while under suspension will need to obtain and pay for new licenses. And if their licenses have been expired for five years or more, they will need to go through the testing process, as well.

Drivers can check their license status online at mvdonline.com using the eservices menu or by purchasing a driver's record on the site.

Affected New Mexico drivers whose licenses have been active within the past five years will receive an email notification if MVD has an email address on record. If MVD does not have an email address on record, it will send notification by mail if the driver was active in the past year.

Going forward, MVD will no longer suspend licenses solely for failure to appear in court or failure to pay a fine.

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The Motor Vehicle Division strives to offer customers convenient channels to conduct their business. MVD regularly adds to services offered online and through convenient retail kiosks.

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