



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**ILLINOIS BLACK CAUCUS CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM BILL INCLUDES DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENSION RELIEF FOR UNPAID TRAFFIC, AUTOMATED CAMERA TICKETS**

***SB3653 Could Restore Licenses and Remove Employment Barriers for Hundreds of Thousands***

SPRINGFIELD -- The final pillar of the Black Caucus' ambitious racial equity legislative agenda passed both chambers of the Illinois legislature early Wednesday morning. SB3653 includes significant expansions of the reforms in the [License to Work Act](#), including provisions to restore driving privileges for up to hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans who face license suspensions and holds due to inability to pay traffic, automated speed, and red light camera ticket fines. The bill also prevents all future license suspensions due to unpaid automated camera tickets and "holds" which disallow renewal of a driver's license for those who fail to pay traffic ticket fines.

"At a time when economic crisis is compounding the systemic racism devastating our communities, this reform will create significant relief for thousands of Illinoisans who lost their licenses not because of dangerous driving, but simply because they cannot afford to pay regressive fines and fees that disproportionately impact communities of color." said Mari Castaldi, Director of Policy at the Chicago Jobs Council. "This reform will clear barriers to employment that keep people out of work and in poverty."

According to data from the Illinois Secretary of state, among the 10 zip codes with the greatest number of license suspensions for unpaid automated camera tickets, 9 out of 10 are majority Black and 1 is majority Latinx.

"When there is opportunity to right a wrong, or restore humanity on any level, we absolutely should. Getting people back to work through this legislation is a step in that direction and makes us feel as though government and community are finally getting on the same page. This victory absolutely amplifies the changes that COFI and POWER-PAC IL parent leaders have been hard at work advocating around for over 20 years." said Rosazlia Grillier, President Emeritus of

COFI/POWER-PAC IL and Co-Chair of the COFI/POWER-PAC Stepping Out of Poverty Campaign.

“Addressing the criminalization of poverty by rolling back economic-based driver’s license suspension is part of a broader package of long-overdue criminal legal systems reform achieved through SB3653, including eliminating the use of monetary bail and placing meaningful limits on the use of force by police,” added Ben Ruddell, Criminal Justice Policy Director at the ACLU of Illinois.

In 2020, over 75,000 driver’s license suspensions were lifted due to the License to Work Act, which ended license suspension due to unpaid parking tickets. If signed by the Governor, this new legislation will not immediately restore driving privileges for affected drivers. Anyone uncertain about the status of their driver’s license should call the Secretary of State at 217-782-3720 to verify their driving privileges.

**The [Transit Table](#) is a coalition of Illinois social service providers, advocates, and other stakeholders working to eliminate transportation barriers that keep people out of work and in poverty. Among the Transit Table members are:**

ACLU of Illinois  
Chicago Jobs Council  
Chicago Urban League  
Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts  
Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI) / POWER-PAC Illinois  
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights  
Revolution Workshop  
Shriver Center on Poverty Law  
Woodstock Institute

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