

Mississippi is 1 of only 12 states still suspending driver's licenses for drug crimes unrelated to driving.

Mississippi is still enforcing a relic of the War on Drugs: automatic driver's license suspensions for anyone convicted of a drug offense. While most states have opted-out of the federal law which created these automatic suspensions, Mississippi suspends an estimated 5,100 driver's licenses annually for drug offenses unrelated to driving. Driver's license suspensions for non-driving reasons are indefensible: they are bad policy, waste government resources, and further disadvantage people convicted of drug crimes.

License suspensions for non-driving offenses don't work.

- The American Association of Motor Vehicles found that there is 'no evidence' that non-driving suspensions deter criminal behavior.
- Instead, non-driving suspensions are added on top of harsh existing criminal penalties for drug convictions.

License suspensions waste taxpayer dollars and traffic safety officials' time.

- Forcing traffic authorities to focus on non-driving suspensions instead of driving-related behavior undermines public safety. No firm numbers are available for Mississippi, but a clear pattern from other states has emerged.
- For example, Georgia motor vehicle officials spent \$80,000 a year on postage in order to correspond with people who had their license suspended for reasons unrelated to driving.
- Suspending driver's licenses for non-driving offenses in Colorado consumed 8,566 hours of motor vehicle administrator's staff time every year — the equivalent of four full-time employees.

License suspensions make finding and keeping a job harder.

- Public transportation is often not a reasonable alternative for low-income people who bear the brunt of these license suspensions. For example, 62% of jobs in the Jackson metropolitan area are not reasonably accessible via public transit for people living in low-income Jackson communities.
- This policy leaves thousands of people without access to economic opportunities. A New Jersey study found that 40% of people lost their job upon having their driver's license suspended and 88% reported lower income.

5 states have recently stopped suspending licenses.

Using an opt-out clause in the federal legislation, Ohio, Massachusetts, Georgia, Delaware, and Indiana have passed bipartisan reforms getting rid of these automatic suspensions in the last three years.

These laws actually make our roads less safe.

A study of law enforcement in eight states found that when non-driving license suspensions increase, less driving-related traffic enforcement takes place.