

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
 Buffy Wicks, Chair
 AB 2195 (Celeste Rodriguez) – As Introduced February 19, 2026

Policy Committee:	Judiciary	Vote:	9 - 3
	Business and Professions		12 - 6

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits any occupational, professional, or other license held by a child support obligor from being suspended if the obligor’s annual household income is at or below 70% of the median income in their county of residence.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Operation and administrative workload costs to DCSS of an unknown but likely minor amount (General Fund). DCSS describes these costs as currently indeterminate, but notes that updates to the Child Support Enforcement (CSE) system would be required to modify state license match processes. DCSS anticipates requiring staff training related to financial reviews that would need to be conducted by the caseworkers on license suspension or revocation and outreach in order to inform and educate the public about the changes with occupational and recreational license suspensions or revocations. The operational and administrative workload for DCSS is expected to be absorbed within existing resources.
- 2) Additional possible loss of child support revenue of an unknown but potentially significant amount, to the extent the threat of license suspension increases the likelihood of payment. Based on estimates reported by DCSS in response to prior legislation prohibiting the revocation of driver’s licenses for individuals at the same income level as this bill, approximately 84% of people ordered to pay child support have either income below \$40,000 per year, or no income reported at all. As a result, this bill will make the majority of people ordered to pay support ineligible for license suspension under existing law. Therefore, loss of revenue may be minor given that most people ordered to pay support are unable to pay support currently under existing law.
- 3) Existing law, beginning January 1, 2027, prohibits DCSS from seeking the denial, withholding, or suspension of a noncommercial driver’s license from low-income child support obligors. This bill would extend the prohibition to all other licenses, and the Department of Motor Vehicles does not anticipate any costs for implementation.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

This bill would remove a barrier to employment and economic stability for low-income parents by ending occupational license

suspensions as an enforcement tool for noncustodial parents whose income is below 70% of the Area Median Income... Current law is illogical and counterproductive. If we want families to receive child support payments, we must not hinder the ability of the noncustodial parent to earn a decent wage.

- 2) **Background.** Under California's license suspension program, when an obligor falls more than 30 days behind, the local child support agency (LCSA) reports them to DCSS, which transmits a consolidated list to relevant licensing boards. Covered licenses include driver's licenses, State Bar membership, professional and occupational licenses, notary commissions, and commercial fishing licenses. Obligor typically receive notice and a 150-day temporary license before full suspension. SB 1055 (Kamlager), Chapter 830, Statutes of 2022, prohibited driver's license suspension for obligors with annual household income at or below 70% of the median income for the county in which they reside, effective January 1, 2025. Beginning January 1, 2027, that exemption applies only to noncommercial driver's licenses; commercial driver's license holders may again be subject to suspension regardless of income.

This bill extends the income-based exemption to all licenses covered by Family Code Section 17520, including State Bar membership, professional and occupational licenses, notary commissions, and commercial fishing licenses, and eliminates the narrowing, scheduled for January 1, 2027, that would have excluded commercial driver's licenses from the exemption under SB 1055, so that commercial driver's license holders at or below 70% area median income remain protected from suspension on the same terms as all other licensees. According to supporters of this measure, of over 26,000 occupational license suspensions and denials over a five year period, the boards with the highest levels of suspensions were predominately lower-earning professions, including those with licenses issued by the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services and the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.

- 3) **Support and Opposition.** Supporters, led by sponsor Western Center on Law and Poverty, argue that suspending occupational licenses for low-income obligors hampers their ability to earn income and pay child support, and that wage garnishments and tax refund offsets are more effective collection tools. Opponents, led by the California Child Support Association (CalCSA), contend that license suspension authority — even when not exercised — is a key tool for prompting non-paying obligors to engage with local child support agencies and come into compliance, and that removing it for occupational and professional licenses may reduce collections to custodial parents (themselves often low-income) and increase reliance on safety-net programs. Sponsors counter, citing an Orange County study, that SB 1055's driver's license exemption did not measurably reduce collections.

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