THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2195
Author: Celeste Rodriguez (D), et al.
Amended: 8/20/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 6/23/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/29/26
AYES: Becker, Ochoa Bogh, Laird, Pérez, Weber Pierson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/13/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-19, 5/27/26 - See last page for vote

**SUBJECT:** Child support: license suspensions

**SOURCE:** Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations
End Child Poverty California
Western Center on Law and Poverty

**DIGEST:** This bill expands the existing prohibition on suspending the driver's license of a parent whose income is at or below 70% of their county median income, as defined, because the parent is in arrears on a child support payment, to a prohibition on suspending any license held by a parent below that income threshold; and establishes a process for the local child support agency (LCSA) to verify a parent's income for purpose of determining whether they are eligible for licensure suspension.

*Senate Floor Amendments* of 8/20/26 make technical changes regarding licensure and licensure suspension.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing federal law imposes, as a condition of a state's receipt of public benefit block grants, certain requirements relating to the state's collection of child and family support, including the requirement that states have and utilize a procedure for withholding, suspending, or restricting the licenses, including the driver's licenses, of those with overdue child or family support obligations. (42 U.S.C. §§ 654(20), 666(a)(16).)

Existing state law:

1) Provides that a minor child's parents have an equal responsibility to support their child in the manner suitable to the child's circumstances. (Family [Fam.] Code, § 3900.)

2) Provides that, if a parent has the duty to provide for their child and willfully fails to so provide, the other parent, or the child by a guardian ad litem, may bring an action against the parent to enforce the duty, and the court may order one or both parents to pay an amount necessary for the support of the child. (Fam. Code, Division [div.] 9, Part [pt.] 2, Chapter [ch.] 2, §§ 4000 et seq.)

3) Establishes a statewide uniform guideline for the calculation of child support ordered by the court under 2), consistent with federal regulations for child support guidelines. (Fam. Code, div. 9, pt. 2, ch. 2, art. 2, §§ 4050 et seq.)

4) Establishes the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) as the single organizational unit for the administration and management of California's child support program, including compliance necessary for federal financial participation. (Fam. Code, § 17202.)

5) Requires every county to maintain an LCSA with the responsibility for promptly and effectively establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support obligations, as specified; and authorizes the LCSA to take appropriate action, including criminal action, in cooperation with district attorneys, to establish, modify, and enforce child support orders and, where appropriate, spousal support if the child is receiving public assistance, as specified. (Fam. Code, §§ 17400(a), 17500.)

6) Defines "board" as an entity, commission, department, committee, examiner, or agency that issues a license, certificate, credential, permit, registration, or any other authorization to engage in a business, occupation, or profession, or to the extent required by federal law or regulations, for recreational purposes, including the State Bar of California, the Department of Real Estate, the

Department of Motor Vehicles, the Medical Board of California, and other boards regulated in the Business and Professions Code. (Fam. Code, § 17520(a).)

7) Requires an LCSA, on a monthly basis, to submit to DCSS a list of persons who are not in compliance with their court-ordered support obligations in a case being enforced pursuant to federal law. (Fam. Code, § 17520(b).)

8) Requires DCSS to consolidate the lists received in 7) and, within 30 calendar days of receipt, provide a copy of the consolidated list to each board as defined in 6). (Fam. Code, § 17520(c).)

9) Requires each board, upon receipt of a consolidated list in 8), to do all of the following:

    a) Determine whether any person on the consolidated list is an applicant for licensure or license renewal.

    b) If the applicant is on the list, immediately serve notice on the applicant of the board's intent to withhold issuance or renewal of the license, as specified.

    c) If the applicant is otherwise eligible for a license, issue a temporary 150-day license; a second temporary 150-day license may be issued only for a driver's license other than a commercial license upon a showing of good cause.

    d) DCSS may, at its discretion, provide to the covered boards a list of parents who are more than four months in arrears on child or family support payments and request that the listed obligors have their licenses suspended; the board must provide a notice of the intent to suspend the license in 150 days if the obligor does not pay the overdue child or family support. (Fam. Code, § 17520(e).)

10) Provides that an LCSA shall not issue a release on a license suspension under 9) if the applicant is not in compliance with the judgment or order for support; when the parent comes into compliance, the LCSA shall mail notice to the parent and the appropriate board stating that the parent is compliance, and the board shall process the release within five days of receipt. (Fam. Code, § 17520(j), (*l*).)

11) Provides that DCSS shall not include on its list sent to the DMV under 8) the information of a parent out of compliance with their support order if the parent's annual household income is at or below 70 percent of the median income for the county in which the parent resides, based on the most recent

available data published by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

a) Beginning January 1, 2027, this provision will apply only to noncommercial driver's licenses.

b) This provision shall be implemented only to the extent allowed under federal law. (Fam. Code, § 17520.5.)

This bill:

1) Extends the exemption on licensure suspension for parents whose household income is at or below 70% of the county median income to all license and permit types, pursuant to the process set forth below.

2) Requires the LCSA, when a parent is more than 30 days out of compliance with their support obligation, to send the parent a notice instructing them to submit employment and income documentation to the LCSA within 30 days of receiving the notice to determine the parent's annual household income.

   a) The notice shall include the direct telephone number for the assigned caseworker or other individual designated to receive the documentation.

   b) Service of the notice shall be completed by mail, as specified.

3) Provides that a parent who fails to timely provide employment documentation to the LCSA pursuant to 2) is presumed to earn more than 70% of the area median income.

   a) A parent may dispute the application of this presumption or other determination that their income is above 70% of the county median through existing administrative and judicial review procedures.

   b) This presumption does not apply with respect to a noncommercial driver's license.

4) Provides that, when an LCSA has verified the parent's income and determined that they are at or below 70% of the area median income, the LCSA shall not require additional employment and income documentation for a period of six months unless the LCSA has reason to believe that the parent's income has materially changed.

a) After the six-month period, if the parent becomes delinquent on child support payments, the LCSA may request updated documentation pursuant to the requirements of 2).

b) If a parent provides employment and income documentation to the LCSA after the 30-day period that shows their income is less than 70 percent of the area median income, the LCSA shall follow the existing process for releasing a licensure suspension.

5) Provides that 2)-4) do not apply to support obligors during the first 12 months after the initial establishment of the order of support.

**Comments**

As a condition of receiving certain block grants for state programs aiding low-income individuals, federal law requires California to have a procedure for suspending the licenses, including the drivers' licenses, and permits of persons who are behind on their court-ordered child support payments. Once a noncustodial parent is more than 30 days late on a court-ordered support payment, their name is transmitted to the state's various licensing boards and the DMV; the person then has another 150 days to come into compliance with their obligations, agree to a modification with the LCSA, or have their license suspended.

In 2022, the Legislature enacted SB 1055 (Kamlager, Chapter 830, Statutes 2022), which prohibits a noncustodial parent's driver's license from being suspended if their income is at or below 70% of the median income for their county of residence. SB 1055 recognized that suspending a low-income parent's driver's license makes it less, rather than more, likely that the parent will be able to come into compliance with their support obligation; suspending a driver's license can also be excessively punitive, to the extent it also makes it more difficult for the parent to engage in everyday chores, medical appointments, and visiting their child.

This bill expands SB 1022's protections for parents with income at or below 70% of the median income for their county of residence to all types of licenses and permits. For all licenses except a noncommercial driver's license, the parent's income must be presumed to be above the 70% threshold unless the parent provides documentation to the LCSA establishing their income level, thereby requiring a parent to engage with the LCSA as a condition of keeping their license.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the fiscal effect is as follows:

Estimated minor, absorbable administrative workload costs to DCSS.

> 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. (General Fund)

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 8/20/26)

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations (co-source)
End Child Poverty California Powered by Grace (co-source)
Western Center on Law & Poverty (co-source)
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
Courage California
End Child Poverty California
Family Reunification, Equity, and Empowerment Project
Legal Services for Prisoners With Children
Legal Services of Northern California
Starting Over Inc.
Truth and Justice in Child Support Coalition
University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law Homeless Advocacy Clinic
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Young Community Developer

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 8/20/26)

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the Coalition of Child Welfare Rights Organizations:

> Current law requires occupational boards, upon receiving a list of names from the Department of Child Support Services, to initiate the process to deny or suspend licenses of any parent who is behind in making child support payments, regardless of any other circumstances. AB 2195 will end the overbroad and punitive impact of existing law, and will re-form an ineffective, costly and administratively burdensome requirement that creates distrust between parents and the child support system, undermining the state's goal of im-proving the well-being of children and families.

> This bill is modeled on the successful passage of SB 1055 (Kamlager) in 2022 which limited driver's license suspensions as an enforcement action for unpaid child support to cases where parents' income was above 70% of the Area

Median Income (AMI). An Orange County evaluation of SB 1055 found that after implementing SB 1055, Orange County's child support agency experienced no significant impact on collections—in fact, collections increased. Additionally, limiting license suspensions to parents resulted in significant administrative savings for the county agency, equal to two full time case workers. California has other more effective tools to collect child support, such as wage garnishments and tax refund offsets.

Interfering with a parent's ability to earn income by suspending their occupational license, hamper's their ability to pay child support. It is time to end this policy which does not support children and families.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-19, 5/27/26
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NOES: Alanis, Bains, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa, Wallis
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gabriel, Muratsuchi, Patterson, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

Prepared by: Heather Hopkins / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/24/26 13:58:38

****** END ******