

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2195 (Celeste Rodriguez)

As Amended August 20, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Prohibits any license held by someone who owes child support from being suspended if their annual household income is at or below 70% of the median income *for a household of one person* in their county of residence.

Senate Amendments

Remove the provisions imposing specified notice and processing requirements on local child support agencies, and incorporates technical clarifying changes.

COMMENTS

When a noncustodial parent fails to comply with an active child support order, that past-due amount is referred to as "arrear." Once an obligor is out of compliance for 30 days, existing law requires the Local Child Support Agency (LCSA) to include their name and information in a list sent to the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS), which is then compiled by the DCSS and transmitted to the relevant licensing body on a monthly basis. The licensing boards then engage in a notice procedure specific to the individual board to alert the obligor that they will withhold either the issuance or renewal of the obligor's license and issue a temporary license valid for 150 days if the obligor is otherwise eligible. (Family Code Section 17520 (b) – (e), see also: Licenses and Passports, California Department of Child Support Services available at: <https://childsupport.ca.gov/drivers-license-passport-release/>.) In other words, two months after failing to comply with an active child support order (one month for the LCSA to report to the department, and another month for the department to report to the relevant board), an obligor may receive notice from their licensing board that they will be operating on a temporary license for the next five months (150 days). Only after the five-month period has elapsed will the obligor's full license be subject to suspension or revocation unless the obligor has come into compliance with the underlying order. Presumably during that time most obligors could have the capacity to contact their LCSA to either set up a payment plan, request a modification of their child support order, or otherwise determine a path forward to provide child support to the custodial parent.

While somewhat counterintuitive, the license suspension process is intended to incentivize obligors who may fall behind in their payments to make up those arrears, thereby encouraging full payment of support to California's children. Recognizing the potentially outsized impact of suspending the drivers license on a low-income earner, the Legislature enacted SB 1055 (Kamlager) Chapter 830, Statutes of 2022 which prohibited, beginning in January 2025, the suspension of drivers licenses for obligors whose annual income was at 70% or below the median income for their county, effectuated by prohibiting DCSS from transmitting those obligors' names to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The sponsors of SB 1055 argued that ensuring low-income obligors retain access to their drivers' licenses would promote compliance with child support orders: "there is substantial reason to believe that SB 1055 will result in higher collections as more non-custodial parents will not lose their jobs or lose hours

after having their license suspended." (Assembly Judiciary Committee analysis of SB 1055 (June 8, 2022).)

This bill prohibits the suspension of any license for obligors who fail to comply with their child support order and whose annual income is at 70% or below the median income *for a household of one person* for their county of residence.

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 (AMI), while still allowing occupational license suspensions as an enforcement tool for noncustodial parents whose income is above 70% of AMI. AB 2195 will end the overbroad and punitive impact of existing law, and it will reform an ineffective, costly and administratively-burdensome requirement that creates distrust between parents and the child support system, undermining the state's goal of improving the well-being of children and families.

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.

The bill is modeled after SB 1055 (Kamlager), [Chapter 830, Statutes of 2022] which established the same 70% AMI threshold for driver's license suspensions. See Family Code 17520.5.

Arguments in Support

This bill is sponsored by the Western Center on Law and Poverty. It is supported by a number of low-income advocacy organizations and legal services providers. In support of the bill the sponsors submit:

Current law requires occupational boards, upon receiving a list of names from the Department of Child Support Services, 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 it will reform an ineffective, costly and administratively burdensome requirement that creates distrust between parents and the child support system, undermining the state's goal of improving the well-being of children and families. 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.

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.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, 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)

VOTES:

ASM JUDICIARY: 9-3-0

YES: Kalra, Lee, Bryan, Connolly, Harabedian, Pacheco, Papan, Stefani, Zbur

NO: Macedo, Dixon, Sanchez

ASM BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS: 12-6-1

YES: Berman, Addis, Ahrens, Bauer-Kahan, Elhawary, Haney, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Lowenthal, Nguyen, Pellerin

NO: Johnson, Alanis, Bains, Chen, Hadwick, Macedo

ABS, ABST OR NV: Caloza

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-3-1

YES: Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

NO: Hoover, Dixon, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ta

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-19-5

YES: 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

NO: Alanis, Bains, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa, Wallis

ABS, ABST OR NV: Gabriel, Muratsuchi, Patterson, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

UPDATED

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CONSULTANT: Manuela Boucher / JUD. / (916) 319-2334

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