



# 2019 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION

## REDUCE DRIVERS' LICENSE SUSPENSIONS BY MAKING IT EASIER TO PAY TRAFFIC TICKETS

### What needs to change?

Too many Washingtonians are losing their driving privileges – and with it their mobility and livelihood – simply because they are unable to navigate multiple payment plans, with different collection agencies. These individuals are disproportionately low-income and people of color.

We can – and **MUST** – make it easier for Washingtonians to pay their traffic tickets. Spokane and King Counties have proven that providing Washingtonians with a **single point of contact** to discharge their fees dramatically reduces license suspensions while increasing revenues because more individuals pay their traffic debt.

### Why is this change necessary?

License suspension creates a loss of freedom. It leads to additional financial hardship and presents a barrier to employment. If individuals continue driving—as they often must to work and pick up children—they face criminal penalties.

Furthermore, our current collection system is broken. Tens of millions of dollars in unpaid traffic obligations go uncollected every year in Washington state.

KEY  
STAT

**190  
THOUSAND**

Snapshot data from the Department of Licensing shows that approximately 190,000 Washingtonians have lost their driving privileges due to a failure to pay.<sup>1</sup>

### Around the state:

Spokane and King Counties have successfully implemented a program that consolidates traffic obligations to provide drivers with a single point of contact. These two local programs reduced the number of suspended licenses and actually increased revenues because more Washingtonians pay their traffic debt.

### What's the solution?

Modeled after local programs in King and Spokane Counties, this legislation creates a system managed by the courts, which will provide Washingtonians facing multiple traffic tickets with a **single point of contact** to discharge their obligations, allowing greater flexibility, and eliminates most collection fees.

### Key Support:

TBD

### Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Salomon: D

Rep. Goodman: D

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1: [https://agportal-s3bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploadedfiles/Home/Office\\_Initiatives/SB%206360%20Report\\_12-01-17%282%29.pdf](https://agportal-s3bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploadedfiles/Home/Office_Initiatives/SB%206360%20Report_12-01-17%282%29.pdf)