

Senate Transportation Committee

Declan Donahue 271-3324

HB 321-FN, requiring the division of motor vehicles to extend a fine payment period for certain motor vehicle violations from 30 days to 90 days if the driver requests the extension.

Hearing Date: April 8, 2025

Time Opened: 1:01 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:07 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ricciardi, McConkey, Ward, Fenton and Prentiss

Bill Analysis: This bill allows drivers who plead guilty or nolo contendere to a driving violation on a summons, in lieu of appearing in court, to request an extension of the payment period from 30 days to 90 days from the division of motor vehicles, and request a second extension for 90 days if they cannot make the payment in the first 90 days.

Sponsors:

Rep. Veilleux

Rep. Coker

Rep. Crawford

Rep. C. McGuire

Rep. Petrigno

Rep. Rombeau

Rep. Telerski

Sen. Long

Who supports the bill: Representatives Dan Veilleux and Mike Franklin. Eric Pauer and Sarahlynn Williams.

Who opposes the bill: Julie Smith

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Dan Veilleux

- This bill tackles financial difficulties people may have paying for tickets for allowing drivers who plead guilty or nolo contendere to a driving violation to request an extension.
- This would create a reasonable payment cycle for people with no outstanding fines.
- Many people would normally qualify for a reduced fine, but taking time off work and finding childcare is too great a burden in the 30 day window.
- This reduces the load on the court by allowing drivers to request extensions through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

- For many, getting into debt with fine cycles creates a snowball effect between the fines and fees.
- Senator McConkey asked if there was an average fee Rep. Veilleux was hearing about from his constituents.
- Rep. Veilleux stated that most are under \$200, and it is mostly people who are living paycheck to paycheck.
- Sen. Fenton asked if the potential to go up to six months without paying will require having to chase people down.
- Rep. Veilleux replied that in most cases people will want to get it done as quickly as possible, except for people who manipulate the system that would end up in court regardless.

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Date Hearing Report completed: April 10, 2025