



ENACTMENT NEWS

House Bill 158

Limited driving privileges for first time FRA suspension; waives filing fee

Effective June 10, 2020

On March 10, 2020, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 158 (Rep. Lou Blessing) into law. The bill allows for limited driving privileges on a first-time offense of failing to maintain proof of financial responsibility, and waives the filing fee for petitioning the court for such privileges.

Under existing law, a court may grant limited driving privileges to a person whose license has been suspended for failure to maintain proof of financial responsibility (an “FRA” suspension) on the driver’s second (and subsequent) offense, but not on the first offense. H.B. 158 allows courts to grant limited privileges on a first offense, on the condition that the person presents proof of financial responsibility and enrolls in a reinstatement fee payment plan.

The bill also waives the filing fee for an application for limited driving privileges on an FRA suspension if the applicant is indigent. To establish indigence, the applicant must apply and qualify under existing procedures set forth in R.C. 2323.311.

The bill was passed by the House of Representatives (90-2) on October 2, 2019, and by the Senate (33-0) on February 12, 2020. The bill takes effect on June 10, 2020.