

HB 2007 -- TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

SPONSOR: Haffner

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 11 to 1.

Currently, if a Missouri resident is charged with a moving violation and fails to dispose of the charges as ordered without good cause, the court informs the resident that it will instruct the Department of Revenue to suspend the defendant's driver's license until charges are properly disposed. Under this bill, the court will inform the defendant that it may instruct the Department of Revenue to suspend the defendant's license.

If a Missouri resident is charged with only a minor traffic violation and fails to dispose of the charges as ordered and fails to appear on two return dates without good cause, the court will, within 10 days of the failure to comply, inform the defendant that it may instruct the Department of Revenue to suspend the defendant's driver's license until charges are properly disposed. A person whose license is suspended under these provisions will receive limited driving privileges unless the Director of the Department of Revenue finds that the defendant is ineligible for such privileges.

This bill is similar to HB 526 (2021).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill is needed because the number of failures to appear have increased dramatically and the bill will address that issue.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Haffner; Robert Lourwood, City of Ironton; Missouri Municipal League; Arnie C. Dienoff; and Adam Dustman, Independence Missouri Police Department.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.