

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 732

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

MTR VEHICLE/OFFICE: Provides for a temporary waiver of fees for final delinquent debt based on special circumstances

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 32:8(E), relative to delinquent debt owed to the office of motor vehicles; to
3 require the commissioner to temporarily waive or suspend fines, fees, penalties, or
4 license suspensions for emergency or humanitarian reasons; to provide for the
5 verification of a life-threatening condition; to provide for temporary suspension of
6 obligations; to require a written decision concerning the temporary waiver of
7 penalties; to provide for the authority of the commissioner; to provide for an
8 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 32:8(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §8. Final delinquent debt; office of motor vehicles

12 * * *

13 E.(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
14 commissioner of the office of motor vehicles, or his designee, shall have emergency
15 authority to temporarily waive or place on hold, for a period not to exceed thirty
16 days, any fine, fee, penalty, or license suspension appearing on a person’s driving
17 record when the commissioner determines that such action is necessary, for
18 humanitarian reasons, to allow the person immediate access to life-sustaining
19 medicine or medical treatment.

20 (2) The person or their representative shall provide documentation from a
21 licensed physician, hospital, hospice, or other home health provider verifying the
22 life-threatening nature of the condition.

1 (3) Any waiver or hold granted under this Subsection shall only suspend
 2 enforcement for the period specified in Paragraph (E)(1) of this Section and shall not,
 3 by itself, forgive the obligation. The office of motor vehicles shall document the
 4 decision in writing.

5 (4) Notwithstanding Paragraph (E)(3) of this Section, the commissioner shall
 6 have full authority, in his discretion and consistent with the humanitarian purpose of
 7 this Subsection, to reduce or eliminate any obligation.

8 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 9 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 10 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 11 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 12 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 732 Engrossed

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Abstract: Grants the commissioner of the office of motor vehicles, or his designee, the authority to temporarily waive or suspend certain fines, fees, penalties, or license suspensions for up to 30 days under certain circumstances and to reduce or eliminate any obligation.

Present law (R.S. 32:8) allows the office of motor vehicles (OMV) to refer debts that are past due 180 days and final for collection through the Office of Debt Recovery, while notifying debtors of payment options and possible fees. Authorizes the OMV to adopt rules for referrals and, through the commissioner, compromise or settle debts to reduce collection costs.

Proposed law retains present law but grants the commissioner of the OMV, or his designee, emergency authority to temporarily waive or suspend fines, fees, penalties, or license suspensions for up to 30 days to allow access to life-sustaining medical treatment, with documentation from a healthcare provider. Clarifies that the underlying obligation is not forgiven, and the decision must be documented in writing by the OMV. Additionally, grants the commissioner full authority to reduce or eliminate any obligation.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 32:8(E))