DRIVER'S LICENSES ARE REQUIRED FOR JOBS

- 79.5% of Georgians drive to work.¹
- A driver’s license is more valuable than a GED in securing work.²
- Almost half of people who lose their licenses lose their jobs.³

EVERYONE LOSES

- Lost licenses = Lost jobs = Lost tax revenue & spending
- 75% of people with suspensions still drive out of necessity
- 50,000 arrests are made annually in Georgia for driving on a suspended license, resulting in 450,000 law enforcement hours spent annually on non-safety related arrests.⁷

A VICIOUS CYCLE BEGINS

- An FTA for any traffic violation automatically results in a suspended license.
- The court cannot recall a suspension, even if the person later appears.
- Suspensions start a cycle of deeper poverty through job loss, further inability to pay the court, more arrests and fines, and even less ability to pay and reclaim the license.

BREAKING THE CYCLE
Potential Solutions to Reduce Suspensions

- Empower the courts with discretion to suspend and recall suspensions. Keep the power to suspend and restore licenses within the courts.
- Extend existing pauper’s affidavit to 100% of reinstatement fee.
- Improve notice of court dates and communication of options for payment plans.
- End automatic suspension for FTA's on minor traffic tickets and child support debt.
- Automatically convert to provisional license upon FTA instead of suspension.

SOURCES

2. John Pawasarat & Frank Stetzer, The EARN (Early Assessment and Retention Network) Model for Effectively Targeting WIA and TANF Resources to Participants, U. OF WIS. EMP. & TRAINING INST., 2007 at 18, available at The EARN (Early Assessment and Retention Network) Model for Effectively Targeting WIA and TANF Resources to Participants (uwm.edu).
6. Georgia Justice Project | 438 Edgewood Ave SE, Atlanta, GA 30312 | www.GJP.org