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Legislative Document

No. 1507

H.P. 1030

House of Representatives, December 23, 2015

An Act To Authorize a Person Whose Operator's License Is Suspended Due to Failure To Pay Child Support To Drive to and from a Place of Employment

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 21, 2015. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative KINNEY of Knox. Cosponsored by Senator EDGECOMB of Aroostook and Representatives: HANLEY of Pittston, HARRINGTON of Sanford, HEAD of Bethel, ORDWAY of Standish, PICKETT of Dixfield, SEAVEY of Kennebunkport, TUELL of East Machias, VACHON of Scarborough.

1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2459, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5 and amended by PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §7, is further amended to read:

4. Temporary license. Upon being presented with a conditional release issued by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and at the request of an individual whose operator's license, permit or privilege to operate has been suspended under this section, the Secretary of State may issue the individual a temporary license valid for a period not to exceed 120 days. <u>This subsection does not apply to a work-restricted</u> <u>license issued pursuant to subsection 4-A.</u>

11 Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2459, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

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12 <u>4-A. Work-restricted license.</u> The Commissioner of Health and Human Services, 13 at the request of an individual whose operator's license, permit or privilege to operate has 14 been suspended under this section, may issue a conditional release to the individual for a 15 work-restricted license and the Secretary of State may stay a suspension during the 16 statutory suspension period and issue a work-restricted license if the individual shows by 17 clear and convincing evidence, as determined by the commissioner, that:

- 18 <u>A. The individual needs a license to operate a motor vehicle between the residence</u>
 19 and a place of employment or in the scope of employment, or both;
- 20B. The individual has no alternative means of transportation between the residence21and a place of employment; and
- <u>C. The individual's operating license has not, within 10 years, been under suspension</u>
 <u>for an OUI offense or pursuant to section 2453 or 2453-A.</u>

The Secretary of State shall suspend, without preliminary hearing, the work-restricted
 license of a person who is adjudicated or convicted of any violation of the provisions of
 this Title committed during the period when a work-restricted license has been issued or
 who violates any restriction or condition of the license.

SUMMARY

Current law requires the Secretary of State to suspend the driver's license of a person who violates a court order of financial support upon certification of that violation by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services. A person may request the commissioner issue a conditional release to the Secretary of State, who may provide the person with a temporary license valid for a period not to exceed 120 days.

This bill allows a person to request a work-restricted license, similar to that issued when a person has been convicted of operating under the influence, to allow the person to operate a motor vehicle between the person's residence and a place of employment or in the scope of employment, or both. The work-restricted license may be issued only if there is no other means of transportation available to the person and the person's license

- to operate has not been suspended for operating under the influence within the prior 10-year period. 1
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