

HB 970 -- Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility

Sponsor: Wieland

This bill changes the laws regarding motor vehicle financial responsibility. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Specifies that a person who commits the misdemeanor crime of failure to maintain financial responsibility under Section 303.025, RSMo, is subject to a fine of not less than \$300 for a first violation, a fine of not less than \$600 for a second violation, and imprisonment for up to 15 days and/or a fine of up to \$1,000 for a third or subsequent violation. Currently, a first violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$300 and a second or subsequent violation is punishable by imprisonment for up to 15 days and/or a fine of up to \$300;

(2) Increases the reinstatement fees for licenses that have been suspended for failure to maintain financial responsibility under Section 303.042. If a person's record shows that there is no prior offense, the reinstatement fee is increased from \$20 to \$120. If the person's record shows one prior offense within the last two years that currently requires \$200 for reinstatement is modified so that any prior offense within the last three years will require \$300 for reinstatement. The standard for two or more prior violations is changed from a requirement of \$400 to \$500 for reinstatement;

(3) Increases the reinstatement cost for presenting false proof of insurance from \$150 to \$500;

(4) Changes the proof of insurance requirement upon reinstatement of a license from two years after the suspension occurs to a continuous two-year period from the time the application for reinstatement is made;

(5) Changes the penalty for failure to return a license under Section 303.330 from a fine not to exceed \$500 and jail time not to exceed 30 days to a fine of not less than \$500 and jail time not less than 15 days; and

(6) Changes the fine for a violation of any provision in Chapter 303 not otherwise provided for from a fine of not more than \$500 to a fine of not less than \$500. The standard for jail time remains the same at not more than 90 days.