



# Council of Accountability Court Judges

**Judge Jason J. Deal**  
*Executive Committee Chair*  
*Northeastern Judicial Circuit*

**Taylor Jones**  
*Executive Director*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Accountability Courts**

**FROM: Council of Accountability Court Judges**

**RE: Senate Bill 367**

**DATE: July 7, 2016**

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Pursuant to Senate Bill 367 which went into effect July 1, 2016, the Georgia Department of Driver Services is removing suspensions based upon Violation of the Georgia Controlled Substances Act from driver's licenses of offenders. Therefore, all defendants who may be dealing with a license suspension due to a drug violation should be directed to go to the DDS website or otherwise visit DDS to check their eligibility to reinstate their license (details below). It is suggested that before a judge considers signing an order for issuance of a limited permit that they require the defendant to make the inquiry with DDS.

***SB367 - "reinstate, instantler, a driver's license that was suspended pursuant to this Code section for a violation of Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Title 16, or the equivalent law of any other jurisdiction, that occurred prior to Jul 1, 2015, provided that the driver's license has not been previously reinstated."***

The change may require action on the part of an offender with suspended driving privileges due to a conviction of a substance abuse nature based upon the following criteria:

- If the only suspension(s) on a person's Georgia driving record are the result of a conviction(s) under Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Title 16, then he/she *may be eligible* to regain their full driving privileges.
- On or after July 1, 2016 a person may verify the status of their Georgia driving privileges by calling 678-413-8400.

Offenders issued a **Limited Permit** by a court order under O.C.G.A. §40-5-76 will be required to surrender that permit since the suspension affording them the permit would then be a moot issue. At the time of surrender, they may be eligible to make application for a Georgia driver's license.

In order to prevent any confusion or possible new driving violations it is anticipated that the Georgia Department of Drivers Services will be sending Secure ID notices directly to the drivers impacted by these changes. Individuals will be encouraged to visit the DDS website at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov) and or call DDS Customer Service at 678-413-8400 prior to visiting DDS Customer Service Centers to ensure they have the required documents required for the issuance of a driver's license in order to comply with Senate Bill 367.

Thank you and please contact DDS or us if you have any questions.