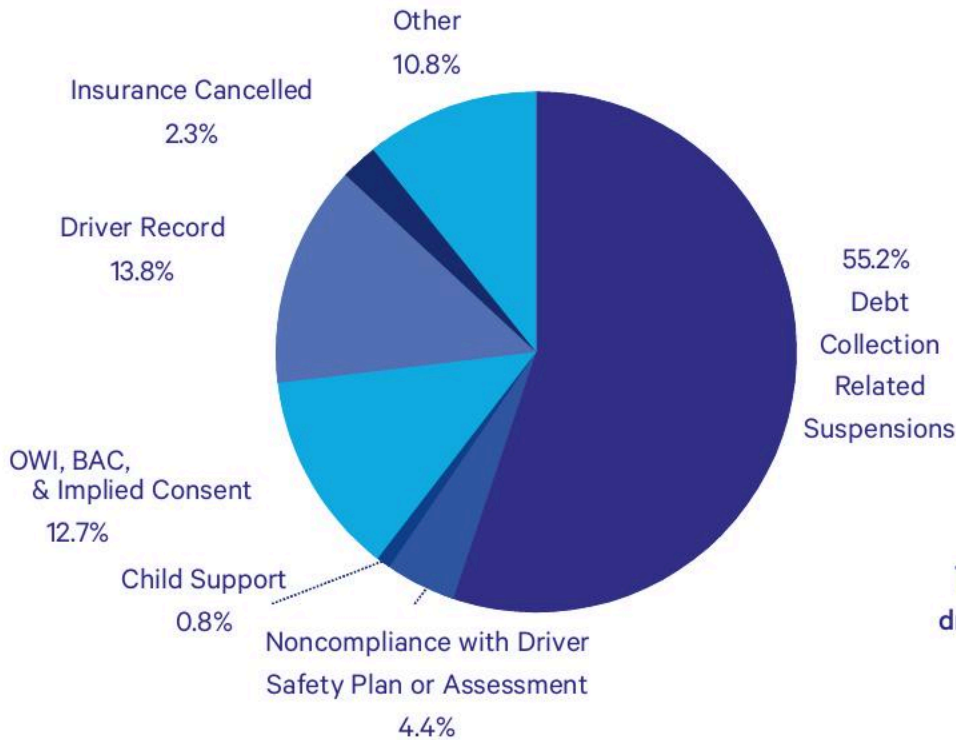


# WI SB 404/AB 421 WILL HARM LEGAL ACTION OF WISCONSIN CLIENTS

## by criminalizing conduct related to poverty, not traffic safety



**55%**  
**OF DRIVER'S LICENSE  
SUSPENSIONS IN WISCONSIN  
OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS  
HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO  
COERCE PAYMENT OF DEBT  
AND ARE NOT SAFETY  
RELATED.**

The only purpose of "Failure to Pay Forfeiture" driver's license suspensions is to coerce payment of debt.

The chart above is a visualization of the following data points from the last decade in Wisconsin: Debt collection suspensions 2,016,155; Noncompliance with Driver Safety Plan or Assessment 159,999; Child Support 32,498; OWI, BAC, and Implied Consent 463,344; Driver Record 504,554; Insurance Cancelled 82,998; Other 395,011.

## THE IMPACT

### 100,000 new criminal cases could be filed each year as a result of this bill

Over the last decade there were 1,114,549 convictions for Operating While Suspended, Operating Without License, and Operating While Revoked. Most of these were non-criminal. If SB 404 passes, most would be criminal, leading to approximately 100,000 more criminal charges each year. It is likely that more than half of those charges would be filed against people whose underlying suspension was not related to traffic safety.

**If traffic safety is the primary concern, the unintended consequences of SB 404 would be greater than the intended effect of the bill.**

“Debt-related restrictions on driving privileges force an impossible choice: stop driving and lose everything — or keep driving and risk more fines and fees, criminal charges, arrest and jail time. Driver's license suspensions trigger a decades-long cycle of poverty and punishment — that many people never escape. For the 86% of Americans that drive to work — losing the ability to drive also means losing the ability to work, provide for your family, and get medical care.”

-- The Free to Drive Report

“The number of individuals with a suspended license also places a burden on the limited resources of law enforcement.”

-- The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)

This information is provided by:

**LEGAL ACTION  
OF WISCONSIN**