

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015  
4

As Engrossed: H3/17/15  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1645

5 By: Representative Bentley  
6

7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF A RESTRICTED  
9 DRIVING PERMIT UPON SUSPENSION OF THE DRIVER'S  
10 LICENSE OF A SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT; AND  
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
13

14 **Subtitle**

15 TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF A RESTRICTED  
16 DRIVING PERMIT UPON SUSPENSION OF THE  
17 DRIVER'S LICENSE OF A SPECIALTY COURT  
18 PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.  
19  
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
22

23 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-16-915(a) and (b), concerning the*  
24 *authority of a court to suspend driving privileges upon conviction for a drug*  
25 *offense, are amended to read as follows:*

26 *(a) As used in this section, ~~the term "drug offense" shall have the~~*  
27 *~~same meaning ascribed to that term as provided in § 5-64-710;~~*

28 *(1) "Drug offense" has the meaning as provided in § 5-64-710;*

29 *and*

30 *(2) "Specialty court" means one (1) of the following:*

31 *(A) A pre-adjudication program under § 5-4-901 et seq.;*

32 *(B) An approved drug court program under the Arkansas Drug*  
33 *Court Act, § 16-98-301 et seq.;*

34 *(C) A probation program under the Swift and Certain*  
35 *Accountability on Probation Pilot Program under § 16-93-1701 et seq.; or*

36 *(D) A specialty court program that has been*



1 approved by the Supreme Court, including without limitation a specialty court  
 2 program known as:

3 (i) A DWI court;

4 (ii) A mental health court;

5 (iii) A veteran's court;

6 (iv) A juvenile drug court;

7 (v) A "HOPE" court; or

8 (vi) A "smarter sentencing" court.

9 (b)(1)(A) ~~Whenever~~ When a person is accepted and enrolled in a court-  
 10 approved pre-adjudication specialty court program for an offense involving  
 11 the illegal possession or use of a controlled substance or, pleads guilty, or  
 12 nolo contendere, or is found guilty of any criminal offense involving the  
 13 illegal possession or use of controlled substances under the Uniform  
 14 Controlled Substances Act, § 5-64-101 et seq., or of any drug offense, in  
 15 this state or any other state, the court having jurisdiction of the matter,  
 16 including any federal court, shall prepare and transmit to the Department of  
 17 Finance and Administration an order to suspend the driving privileges of the  
 18 person for six (6) months, provided ~~any such~~ the order regarding a person who  
 19 is a holder of a commercial driver's license issued under the Arkansas  
 20 Uniform Commercial Driver License Act, § 27-23-101 et seq., or under the laws  
 21 of ~~any other~~ another state shall include the suspension of the driving  
 22 privileges of that person to drive ~~any~~ a commercial motor vehicle, as the  
 23 term "commercial motor vehicle" is defined in § 27-23-103, or as similarly  
 24 defined by the laws of any other state, for a period of one (1) year.

25 (B) Courts within the State of Arkansas shall prepare and  
 26 transmit ~~all such orders~~ an order within twenty-four (24) hours after the  
 27 plea or finding to the department.

28 (C) Courts outside Arkansas having jurisdiction over ~~any~~  
 29 ~~such~~ a person holding driving privileges issued by the State of Arkansas  
 30 shall prepare and transmit ~~such orders~~ an order pursuant to ~~agreements or~~  
 31 ~~arrangements~~ an agreement or arrangement entered into between that state and  
 32 the Director of the Department of Finance and Administration.

33 (D) ~~Such arrangements or agreements~~ The agreement or  
 34 arrangement may shall also provide for the forwarding by the department of  
 35 ~~orders~~ an order issued by ~~courts~~ a court within this state to the state  
 36 ~~wherein any such~~ where the person holds driving privileges issued by that

1 state.

2 (2) For ~~any such~~ a person holding driving privileges issued by  
3 the State of Arkansas, ~~courts a court~~ within the State of Arkansas ~~in cases~~  
4 ~~of extreme and unusual hardship may~~ shall provide in an order for the  
5 issuance of a restricted driving permit to allow driving to and from:

6 (A) A mandatory court appearance;

7 (B) A mandatory random drug-testing appearance;

8 (C) a A place of employment as required in the scope of  
9 employment; ~~or~~

10 (D) ~~to and from any~~ A scheduled ~~sessions~~ session or  
11 meetings ~~meeting~~ of a support ~~organizations,~~ or counseling organization;

12 (E) ~~education,~~ An educational institution for the purpose  
13 of attending a class if the person is enrolled in a course of study or  
14 program of training at the educational institution; ~~or~~

15 (F) A treatment program for persons who have addiction or  
16 abuse problems related to ~~any~~ a substance or controlled substances; or

17 (G) A doctor, hospital, or clinic appointment or admission  
18 for medical treatment or care for an illness, disease, or other medical  
19 condition of the person or a family member.

20 (3)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(4) of this section,  
21 a person in a specialty court program shall be issued a restricted driving  
22 permit in order to drive for specialty court-approved purposes during  
23 enrollment, compliance, and participation in the specialty court program.

24 (B) Acceptance in a specialty court program shall not  
25 waive or set aside:

26 (i) A previous order issued by a court requiring  
27 payment of fines, fees, or court costs; or

28 (ii) A requirement for payment of a reinstatement  
29 fee to the department for re-issuance of valid driver's license.

30 (4) This section does not apply to a person with a driver's  
31 license that is suspended for a violation under:

32 (A) Section 9-14-239;

33 (B) Section 27-16-905;

34 (C) Section 27-16-907(b)(4)-(6);

35 (D) Section 27-16-908;

36 (E) Section 27-16-909;

1 (F) Section 27-19-707(e)(2), unless the judgment creditor  
2 furnishes written consent; and

3 (G) The Arkansas Uniform Commercial Driver License Act,  
4 § 27-23-103 et seq.

5 (5)(A) Unless the person terminates from the specialty court  
6 program, the restricted driving permit issued under this section shall be  
7 effective for eighteen (18) months.

8 (B) Thereafter, the person shall be required to reapply  
9 for issuance of a restricted driving permit pursuant to the provisions of  
10 this section. SECTION 1. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the  
11 issuance of a restricted driving permit to a specialty court program  
12 participant who has a suspended driver's license.

13  
14 /s/Bentley  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36