

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

WILLIAM M. STANLEY

20TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF HENRY AND PATRICK COUNTIES; ALL OF THE
CITIES OF GALAX AND MARTINSVILLE; PART OF CARROLL,
FRANKLIN, HALIFAX, AND PITTSYLVANIA COUNTIES;
AND PART OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHAIR
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMERCE AND LABOR
COURTS OF JUSTICE
RULES

Statement from Senator Stanley:

"It is long overdue for Virginia to end this destructive policy, which targets people in poverty and prevents them not only from paying their debts, but also from taking care of their essential basic needs, and the health and welfare of their children and families.

The Commonwealth can no longer justify what has essentially become a "debtors' prison" under our watch in the General Assembly. That's why I introduced SB1013 this legislative session to repeal the current law that mandates these unjust suspensions merely because a person cannot afford to pay the fines and costs. While my bill passed overwhelmingly in the Senate, it was never heard by the full House of Delegates, even though it had overwhelming bipartisan support both inside and outside of the legislature.

The Governor's actions today have finally put this issue before the full General Assembly for consideration and a vote during the reconvene session. Now is the time for Virginia to make things right for the nearly one million of its citizens whose licenses are suspended only due to their financial status in life, and whose livelihoods and families are put in jeopardy because of it.

I want to thank Governor Northam for making my legislation a part of his amendments to the 2019 Virginia budget."