

Suspensions now require 'proof of financial responsibility'

Anyone whose driver's license is suspended, revoked, or limited for any reason after Aug. 31 will have to show proof of financial responsibility before the license can be renewed or reinstated.

This will be in addition to all other requirements for reinstatement of a license, and is part of new provisions enacted by the state legislature this year strengthening the state's Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act which becomes effective Aug. 31.

The purpose of the act is to protect motorists from uninsured drivers. The basic pro-

visions of the act require that any driver or owner of a vehicle involved in an accident involving more than \$500 in damages, or in which someone is injured or killed, must show proof of financial responsibility. That is, that the person can pay for the costs or liabilities arising from the accident.

This proof of financial responsibility can be in the form of adequate insurance, a security deposit covering anticipated costs arising from the accident, or a settlement agreement between the parties involved.

If a person cannot provide proof of financial responsibil-

ity, the Division of Motor Vehicles can suspend the person's license for up to three years.

Under the new provisions of the act it is now required that anyone whose license is suspended, revoked, or limited for any reason must show proof of financial responsibility before the license can be reinstated. This is in addition to all other requirements for reinstatement of a license.

This is for any license that has been suspended, revoked or limited as the result of a conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, other driving conviction, ac-

cumulation of 12 or more points against a driver's license, or other administrative or judicial action.

The proof of financial responsibility required in these cases must be proof of financial responsibility for any possible future accident. This is generally a certificate of insurance obtained from an insurance company, not just the existence of an insurance policy. Without this certificate of insurance a license cannot be reinstated.

It is also now required under new provisions of the act that a security deposit filed to cover

the cost of an accident must be for a two-year period rather than one year. This coincides with the statute of limitations in which claims can be filed as a result of an accident.

A \$50 fee is now required under the new provisions for anyone seeking to reinstate a driver's license that has been suspended as the result of an uninsured accident.