

Instructions for the teachers

- This document includes an adapted, easier version of the original article. If you have lower level student, you may want to give them this version. Alternatively, you can also choose to use this version for all students in your class.
- The bold words are in the Intro ppt.
- The underlined phrases are for the Communicative Practice. **Don't give the underlined version to students**, so they would have to use scanning to find the answers and make the questions.
- The same parts are underlined for both the original and adapted versions, so if you have a multi level class, everyone can participate though it might be best to put same level students together.

How A Traffic Fine Can Lead To Jail Time In California

May 4, 2017 1:22 PM ET

By Leah Donnell

Adapted from:

[Click here for the original article from NPR](#)

(<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2017/05/04/482923586/how-a-traffic-fine-can-lead-to-jail-time-in-california>)

1. Lots of people pay traffic fines, but not everyone is affected the same way. According to a new report from the [Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights](#) (LCCR) of the San Francisco Bay Area, traffic tickets in California have a much larger effect on low-income drivers and people of color. Those **consequences** are not just **monetary**. If they don't pay their ticket, they could get their license **suspended**, or they can lose their license, or they may go to jail if they continue to drive without a license.
2. Elisa Della-Piana, the legal director for the LCCR, said the organization, which provides civil legal aid for low-income residents and people of color, started looking into these reports after customers said they had lost their licenses because they couldn't pay a ticket. Since almost 80 percent of Californians drive to work, if they don't pay the traffic fine, they can lose their jobs. The only way to get their license back is to pay the full amount of the fine.
3. California uses traffic fines as an income, and those fines are the highest in the country, according to the report. The base fine for not stopping at a red light is \$100, but late fees and other **add-ons** can make that single ticket eventually cost more than \$800. And people are not given tickets for driving violations only. They can also be ticketed and have their licenses suspended for things like **jaywalking** or **loitering**. As a result, over 4 million California drivers were without a license in 2015.
4. Until April of 2017, California had a traffic amnesty program that allowed low-income people to pay fines that were proportional to their salaries. The state found that when fines were lower, more people could pay in payments, rather than in one full payment. Now that the program has expired, the state will have to decide how to move forward.

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