§ 244-b. Child support proceedings and enforcement of arrears; suspension of driving privileges.

(a) In any proceeding for the enforcement of a direction or agreement, incorporated in a judgment or order, to pay any sum of money as child support or combined child and spousal support, if the court is satisfied by competent proof that the respondent has accumulated support arrears equivalent to or greater than the amount of support due pursuant to such judgment or order for a period of four months, the court may order the department of motor vehicles to suspend the respondent's driving privileges, and if such order issues, the respondent may apply to the department of motor vehicles for a restricted use license pursuant to section five hundred thirty of the vehicle and traffic law. The court may at any time upon payment of arrears or partial payment of arrears by the respondent order the department of motor vehicles to terminate the suspension of respondent's driving privileges. For purposes of determining whether a support obligor has accumulated support arrears equivalent to or greater than the amount of support due for a period of four months, the amount of any retroactive support, other than periodic payments of retroactive support which are past due, shall not be included in the calculation of support arrears pursuant to this section.

(b) If the respondent, after receiving appropriate notice, fails to comply with a summons, subpoena or warrant relating to a paternity or child support proceeding, the court may order the department of motor vehicles to suspend the respondent's driving privileges. The court may subsequently order the department of motor vehicles to terminate the suspension of the respondent's driving privileges; however, the court shall order the termination of such suspension when the court is satisfied that the respondent has fully complied with all summonses, subpoenas and warrants relating to a paternity or child support proceeding.

(c) The provisions of subdivision (a) of this section shall not apply to:

(i) respondents who are receiving public assistance or supplemental security income; or

(ii) respondents whose income as defined by subparagraph five of paragraph (b) of subdivision one-b of section two hundred forty of this chapter falls below the self-support reserve as defined by subparagraph

six of paragraph (b) of subdivision one-b of section two hundred forty of this chapter; or

(iii) respondents whose income as defined by subparagraph five of paragraph (b) of subdivision one-b of section two hundred forty of this chapter remaining after the payment of the current support obligation would fall below the self-support reserve as defined by subparagraph six of paragraph (b) of subdivision one-b of section two hundred forty of this chapter.

(d) The court's discretionary decision not to suspend driving privileges shall not have any res judicata effect or preclude any other agency with statutory authority to direct the department of motor vehicles to suspend driving privileges.