



(Docket No. 131382)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Appellant, v.
GERMAN CRUZ AGUILAR, Appellee.

Opinion filed September 24, 2026.

Justice Overstreet delivered the judgment of the court, with opinion.

German Cruz Aguilar was charged with aggravated driving under the influence (DUI), with the aggravating factor being that he did not possess a driver's license. The State's basis for charging Aguilar as not having a driver's license was that his license was suspended for failing to satisfy financial responsibility requirements. The circuit court dismissed the charge, and the appellate court affirmed.

The supreme court affirmed the dismissals below. The Vehicle Code provides in section 11-501(d)(1)(G) for an aggravated DUI offense where the driver's license is suspended for violations of certain specified statutory sections. Section 11-501(d)(1)(G) did not provide for an aggravated DUI offense where the license was suspended for failing to satisfy financial responsibility requirements. The State's attempt to charge Aguilar as not having a driver's license, when his license was instead suspended for a reason not listed in section 11-501(d)(1)(G), would have rendered it superfluous by making every suspension an aggravating factor for DUI. The legislature would not have created specific provisions to elevate a simple DUI to an aggravated DUI for license suspension if it intended every license suspension to do so.