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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

Introduced By: Representatives Gallison, McNamara, Serpa, Canario, and Marshall

Date Introduced: February 07, 2013

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Attorney General)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 31-27-2 and 31-27-2.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-27  
2 entitled "Motor Vehicle Offenses" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **31-27-2. Driving under influence of liquor or drugs.** -- (a) Whoever drives or  
4 otherwise operates any vehicle in the state while under the influence of any intoxicating liquor,  
5 drugs, toluene, or any controlled substance as defined in chapter 28 of title 21, or any  
6 combination of these, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor except as provided in subdivision (d)(3)  
7 and shall be punished as provided in subsection (d) of this section.

8           (b) (1) Any person charged under subsection (a) of this section whose blood alcohol  
9 concentration is eight one-hundredths of one percent (.08%) or more by weight as shown by a  
10 chemical analysis of a blood, breath, or urine sample shall be guilty of violating subsection (a) of  
11 this section. This provision shall not preclude a conviction based on other admissible evidence.  
12 Proof of guilt under this section may also be based on evidence that the person charged was under  
13 the influence of intoxicating liquor, drugs, toluene, or any controlled substance defined in chapter  
14 28 of title 21, or any combination of these, to a degree which rendered the person incapable of  
15 safely operating a vehicle. The fact that any person charged with violating this section is or has  
16 been legally entitled to use alcohol or a drug shall not constitute a defense against any charge of  
17 violating this section.

18           (2) Whoever drives or otherwise operates any vehicle in the state with a blood presence  
19 of any scheduled controlled substance as defined within chapter 28 of title 21, as shown by

1 analysis of a blood or urine sample, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished as  
2 provided in subsection (d) of this section.

3 (c) In any criminal prosecution for a violation of subsection (a) of this section, evidence  
4 as to the amount of intoxicating liquor, toluene, or any controlled substance as defined in chapter  
5 28 of title 21, or any combination of these, in the defendant's blood at the time alleged as shown  
6 by a chemical analysis of the defendant's breath, blood, or urine or other bodily substance shall be  
7 admissible and competent, provided that evidence is presented that the following conditions have  
8 been complied with:

9 (1) The defendant has consented to the taking of the test upon which the analysis is  
10 made. Evidence that the defendant had refused to submit to the test shall not be admissible unless  
11 the defendant elects to testify.

12 (2) A true copy of the report of the test result was mailed within seventy-two (72) hours  
13 of the taking of the test to the person submitting to a breath test.

14 (3) Any person submitting to a chemical test of blood, urine, or other body fluids shall  
15 have a true copy of the report of the test result mailed to him or her within thirty (30) days  
16 following the taking of the test.

17 (4) The test was performed according to methods and with equipment approved by the  
18 director of the department of health of the state of Rhode Island and by an authorized individual.

19 (5) Equipment used for the conduct of the tests by means of breath analysis had been  
20 tested for accuracy within thirty (30) days preceding the test by personnel qualified as  
21 hereinbefore provided, and breathalyzer operators shall be qualified and certified by the  
22 department of health within three hundred sixty-five (365) days of the test.

23 (6) The person arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the  
24 influence of intoxicating liquor, toluene, or any controlled substance as defined in chapter 28 of  
25 title 21, or, any combination of these in violation of subsection (a) of this section was afforded the  
26 opportunity to have an additional chemical test. The officer arresting or so charging the person  
27 shall have informed the person of this right and afforded him or her a reasonable opportunity to  
28 exercise this right, and a notation to this effect is made in the official records of the case in the  
29 police department. Refusal to permit an additional chemical test shall render incompetent and  
30 inadmissible in evidence the original report.

31 (d) (1) (i) Every person found to have violated subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall be  
32 sentenced as follows: for a first violation whose blood alcohol concentration is eight one-  
33 hundredths of one percent (.08%) but less than one-tenth of one percent (.1%) by weight or who  
34 has a blood presence of any scheduled controlled substance as defined in subdivision (b)(2) shall

1 be subject to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than three hundred  
2 dollars (\$300), shall be required to perform ten (10) to sixty (60) hours of public community  
3 restitution, and/or shall be imprisoned for up to one year. The sentence may be served in any unit  
4 of the adult correctional institutions in the discretion of the sentencing judge and/or shall be  
5 required to attend a special course on driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a  
6 controlled substance; provided, however, that the court may permit a servicemember or veteran to  
7 complete any court-approved counseling program administered or approved by the Veterans'  
8 Administration, and his or her driver's license shall be suspended for thirty (30) days up to one  
9 hundred eighty (180) days. [The sentencing judge or magistrate may prohibit that person from](#)  
10 [operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system as provided in](#)  
11 [section 31-27-2.8.](#)

12 (ii) Every person convicted of a first violation whose blood alcohol concentration is one-  
13 tenth of one percent (.1%) by weight or above but less than fifteen hundredths of one percent  
14 (.15%) or whose blood alcohol concentration is unknown shall be subject to a fine of not less than  
15 one hundred (\$100) dollars nor more than four hundred dollars (\$400) and shall be required to  
16 perform ten (10) to sixty (60) hours of public community restitution and/or shall be imprisoned  
17 for up to one year. The sentence may be served in any unit of the adult correctional institutions in  
18 the discretion of the sentencing judge. The person's driving license shall be suspended for a  
19 period of three (3) months to twelve (12) months. The sentencing judge shall require attendance  
20 at a special course on driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance  
21 and/or alcoholic or drug treatment for the individual; provided, however, that the court may  
22 permit a servicemember or veteran to complete any court-approved counseling program  
23 administered or approved by the Veterans' Administration. [The sentencing judge or magistrate](#)  
24 [may prohibit that person from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition](#)  
25 [interlock system as provided in section 31-27-2.8.](#)

26 (iii) Every person convicted of a first offense whose blood alcohol concentration is  
27 fifteen hundredths of one percent (.15%) or above, or who is under the influence of a drug,  
28 toluene, or any controlled substance as defined in subdivision (b)(1) shall be subject to a fine of  
29 five hundred dollars (\$500) and shall be required to perform twenty (20) to sixty (60) hours of  
30 public community restitution and/or shall be imprisoned for up to one year. The sentence may be  
31 served in any unit of the adult correctional institutions in the discretion of the sentencing judge.  
32 The person's driving license shall be suspended for a period of three (3) months to eighteen (18)  
33 months. The sentencing judge shall require attendance at a special course on driving while  
34 intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance and/or alcohol or drug treatment for

1 the individual; provided, however, that the court may permit a servicemember or veteran to  
2 complete any court-approved counseling program administered or approved by the Veterans'  
3 Administration. The sentencing judge or magistrate may prohibit that person from operating a  
4 motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system as provided in section 31-27-  
5 2.8.

6 (2) (i) Every person convicted of a second violation within a five (5) year period with a  
7 blood alcohol concentration of eight one-hundredths of one percent (.08%) or above but less than  
8 fifteen hundredths of one percent (.15%) or whose blood alcohol concentration is unknown or  
9 who has a blood presence of any controlled substance as defined in subdivision (b)(2), and every  
10 person convicted of a second violation within a five (5) year period regardless of whether the  
11 prior violation and subsequent conviction was a violation and subsequent conviction under this  
12 statute or under the driving under the influence of liquor or drugs statute of any other state, shall  
13 be subject to a mandatory fine of four hundred dollars (\$400). The person's driving license shall  
14 be suspended for a period of one year to two (2) years, and the individual shall be sentenced to  
15 not less than ten (10) days nor more than one year in jail. The sentence may be served in any unit  
16 of the adult correctional institutions in the discretion of the sentencing judge; however, not less  
17 than forty-eight (48) hours of imprisonment shall be served consecutively. The sentencing judge  
18 shall require alcohol or drug treatment for the individual; provided, however, that the court may  
19 permit a servicemember or veteran to complete any court-approved counseling program  
20 administered or approved by the Veterans' Administration and ~~may~~ shall prohibit that person  
21 from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system ~~for a period~~  
22 ~~of one year to two (2) years following the completion of the sentence~~ as provided in section 31-  
23 27-2.8.

24 (ii) Every person convicted of a second violation within a five (5) year period whose  
25 blood alcohol concentration is fifteen hundredths of one percent (.15%) or above by weight as  
26 shown by a chemical analysis of a blood, breath, or urine sample or who is under the influence of  
27 a drug, toluene, or any controlled substance as defined in subdivision (b)(1) shall be subject to  
28 mandatory imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than one year, a mandatory fine  
29 of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and a mandatory license suspension for a period of  
30 two (2) years from the date of completion of the sentence imposed under this subsection. The  
31 sentencing judge shall require alcohol or drug treatment for the individual; provided, however,  
32 that the court may permit a servicemember or veteran to complete any court approved counseling  
33 program administered or approved by the Veterans' Administration. The sentencing judge or  
34 magistrate may prohibit that person from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an

1 [ignition interlock system as provided in section 31-27-2.8.](#)

2 (3) (i) Every person convicted of a third or subsequent violation within a five (5) year  
3 period with a blood alcohol concentration of eight one-hundredths of one percent (.08%) or above  
4 but less than fifteen hundredths of one percent (.15%) or whose blood alcohol concentration is  
5 unknown or who has a blood presence of any scheduled controlled substance as defined in  
6 subdivision (b)(2) regardless of whether any prior violation and subsequent conviction was a  
7 violation and subsequent conviction under this statute or under the driving under the influence of  
8 liquor or drugs statute of any other state, shall be guilty of a felony and be subject to a mandatory  
9 fine of four hundred (\$400) dollars. The person's driving license shall be suspended for a period  
10 of two (2) years to three (3) years, and the individual shall be sentenced to not less than one year  
11 and not more than three (3) years in jail. The sentence may be served in any unit of the adult  
12 correctional institutions in the discretion of the sentencing judge; however, not less than forty-  
13 eight (48) hours of imprisonment shall be served consecutively. The sentencing judge shall  
14 require alcohol or drug treatment for the individual; provided, however, that the court may permit  
15 a servicemember or veteran to complete any court-approved counseling program administered or  
16 approved by the Veterans' Administration, and ~~may~~ [shall](#) prohibit that person from operating a  
17 motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system ~~for a period of two (2) years~~  
18 ~~following the completion of the sentence~~ as provided in section 31-27-2.8.

19 (ii) Every person convicted of a third or subsequent violation within a five (5) year  
20 period whose blood alcohol concentration is fifteen hundredths of one percent (.15%) above by  
21 weight as shown by a chemical analysis of a blood, breath, or urine sample or who is under the  
22 influence of a drug, toluene or any controlled substance as defined in subdivision (b)(1) shall be  
23 subject to mandatory imprisonment of not less than three (3) years nor more than five (5) years, a  
24 mandatory fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than five thousand dollars  
25 (\$5,000) and a mandatory license suspension for a period of three (3) years from the date of  
26 completion of the sentence imposed under this subsection. [The sentencing judge shall require](#)  
27 [alcohol or drug treatment for the individual. The sentencing judge or magistrate may prohibit that](#)  
28 [person from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system as](#)  
29 [provided in section 31-27-2.8.](#)

30 (iii) In addition to the foregoing penalties, every person convicted of a third or  
31 subsequent violation within a five (5) year period regardless of whether any prior violation and  
32 subsequent conviction was a violation and subsequent conviction under this statute or under the  
33 driving under the influence of liquor or drugs statute of any other state shall be subject, in the  
34 discretion of the sentencing judge, to having the vehicle owned and operated by the violator

1 seized and sold by the state of Rhode Island, with all funds obtained by the sale to be transferred  
2 to the general fund.

3 (4) Whoever drives or otherwise operates any vehicle in the state while under the  
4 influence of any intoxicating liquor, drugs, toluene, or any controlled substance as defined in  
5 chapter 28 of title 21, or any combination of these, when his or her license to operate is  
6 suspended, revoked or cancelled for operating under the influence of a narcotic drug or  
7 intoxicating liquor shall be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than three  
8 (3) years and by a fine or not more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000). The court shall require  
9 alcohol and/or drug treatment for the individual; provided, the penalties provided for in  
10 subdivision 31-27-2(d)(4) shall not apply to an individual who has surrendered his or her license,  
11 and served the court ordered period of suspension, but who, for any reason, has not had their  
12 license reinstated after the period of suspension, revocation, or suspension has expired; provided,  
13 further the individual shall be subject to the provisions of paragraphs 31-27-2(d)(2)(i) or (ii) or  
14 31-27-22(d)(3)(i), (ii), or (iii) regarding subsequent offenses, and any other applicable provision  
15 of section 31-27-2.

16 (5) (i) For purposes of determining the period of license suspension, a prior violation  
17 shall constitute any charge brought and sustained under the provisions of this section or section  
18 31-27-2.1.

19 (ii) Any person over the age of eighteen (18) who is convicted under this section for  
20 operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, other drugs, or a combination of  
21 these, while a child under the age of thirteen (13) years was present as a passenger in the motor  
22 vehicle when the offense was committed may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more  
23 than one year and further shall not be entitled to the benefit of suspension or deferment of this  
24 sentence. The sentence imposed under this section may be served in any unit of the adult  
25 correctional institutions in the discretion of the sentencing judge.

26 (6) (i) Any person convicted of a violation under this section shall pay a highway  
27 assessment fine of five hundred dollars (\$500) which shall be deposited into the general fund. The  
28 assessment provided for by this subsection shall be collected from a violator before any other  
29 fines authorized by this section.

30 (ii) Any person convicted of a violation under this section shall be assessed a fee of  
31 eighty-six dollars (\$86).

32 (7) (i) If the person convicted of violating this section is under the age of eighteen (18)  
33 years, for the first violation he or she shall be required to perform ten (10) to sixty (60) hours of  
34 public community restitution, and the juvenile's driving license shall be suspended for a period of

1 six (6) months, and may be suspended for a period up to eighteen (18) months. The sentencing  
2 judge shall also require attendance at a special course on driving while intoxicated or under the  
3 influence of a controlled substance and alcohol or drug education and/or treatment for the  
4 juvenile. The juvenile may also be required to pay a highway assessment fine of no more than  
5 five hundred dollars (\$500), and the assessment imposed shall be deposited into the general fund.

6 (ii) If the person convicted of violating this section is under the age of eighteen (18)  
7 years, for a second or subsequent violation regardless of whether any prior violation and  
8 subsequent conviction was a violation and subsequent under this statute or under the driving  
9 under the influence of liquor or drugs statute of any other state, he or she shall be subject to a  
10 mandatory suspension of his or her driving license until such time as he or she is twenty-one (21)  
11 years of age and may, in the discretion of the sentencing judge, also be sentenced to the Rhode  
12 Island training school for a period of not more than one year and/or a fine of not more than five  
13 hundred dollars (\$500).

14 (8) Any person convicted of a violation under this section may undergo a clinical  
15 assessment at the community college of Rhode Island 's center for workforce and community  
16 education. Should this clinical assessment determine problems of alcohol, drug abuse, or  
17 psychological problems associated with alcoholic or drug abuse, this person shall be referred to  
18 an appropriate facility, licensed or approved by the department of mental health, retardation and  
19 hospitals for treatment placement, case management, and monitoring. In the case of a  
20 servicemember or veteran, the court may order that the person be evaluated through the Veterans'  
21 Administration. Should the clinical assessment determine problems of alcohol, drug abuse, or  
22 psychological problems associated with alcohol or drug abuse, the person may have their  
23 treatment, case management and monitoring administered or approved by the Veterans'  
24 Administration.

25 (e) Percent by weight of alcohol in the blood shall be based upon milligrams of alcohol  
26 per one hundred (100) cubic centimeters of blood.

27 (f) (1) There is established an alcohol and drug safety unit within the division of motor  
28 vehicles to administer an alcohol safety action program. The program shall provide for placement  
29 and follow-up for persons who are required to pay the highway safety assessment. The alcohol  
30 and drug safety action program will be administered in conjunction with alcohol and drug  
31 programs licensed by the department of mental health retardation and hospitals.

32 (2) Persons convicted under the provisions of this chapter shall be required to attend a  
33 special course on driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance,  
34 and/or participate in an alcohol or drug treatment program; provided, however, that the court may

1 permit a servicemember or veteran to complete any court-approved counseling program  
2 administered or approved by the Veterans' Administration. The course shall take into  
3 consideration any language barrier which may exist as to any person ordered to attend, and shall  
4 provide for instruction reasonably calculated to communicate the purposes of the course in  
5 accordance with the requirements of the subsection. Any costs reasonably incurred in connection  
6 with the provision of this accommodation shall be borne by the person being retrained. A copy of  
7 any violation under this section shall be forwarded by the court to the alcohol and drug safety  
8 unit. In the event that persons convicted under the provisions of this chapter fail to attend and  
9 complete the above course or treatment program, as ordered by the judge, then the person may be  
10 brought before the court, and after a hearing as to why the order of the court was not followed,  
11 may be sentenced to jail for a period not exceeding one year.

12 (3) The alcohol and drug safety action program within the division of motor vehicles  
13 shall be funded by general revenue appropriations.

14 (g) The director of the health department of the state of Rhode Island is empowered to  
15 make and file with the secretary of state regulations which prescribe the techniques and methods  
16 of chemical analysis of the person's body fluids or breath, and the qualifications and certification  
17 of individuals authorized to administer this testing and analysis.

18 (h) Jurisdiction for misdemeanor violations of this section shall be with the district court  
19 for persons eighteen (18) years of age or older and to the family court for persons under the age  
20 of eighteen (18) years. The courts shall have full authority to impose any sentence authorized and  
21 to order the suspension of any license for violations of this section. All trials in the district court  
22 and family court of violations of the section shall be scheduled within thirty (30) days of the  
23 arraignment date. No continuance or postponement shall be granted except for good cause shown.  
24 Any continuances that are necessary shall be granted for the shortest practicable time. Trials in  
25 superior court are not required to be scheduled within thirty (30) days of the arraignment date.

26 (i) No fines, suspensions, assessments, alcohol or drug treatment programs, course on  
27 driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance, public community  
28 restitution, or jail provided for under this section can be suspended.

29 (j) An order to attend a special course on driving while intoxicated that shall be  
30 administered in cooperation with a college or university accredited by the state, shall include a  
31 provision to pay a reasonable tuition for the course in an amount not less than twenty-five dollars  
32 (\$25.00), and a fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175), which fee shall be deposited into  
33 the general fund.

34 (k) For the purposes of this section, any test of a sample of blood, breath, or urine for the



1 presence of alcohol, which relies in whole or in part upon the principle of infrared light  
2 absorption is considered a chemical test.

3 (l) If any provision of this section or the application of any provision shall for any reason  
4 be judged invalid, such a judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of the  
5 section, but shall be confined in this effect to the provision or application directly involved in the  
6 controversy giving rise to the judgment.

7 (m) For the purposes of this section, "servicemember" means a person who is presently  
8 serving in the armed forces of the United States including the Coast Guard, a reserve component  
9 thereof, or the National Guard. "Veteran" means a person who has served in the armed forces,  
10 including the Coast Guard of the United States, a reserve component thereof, or the National  
11 Guard, and has been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

12 **31-27-2.1. Refusal to submit to chemical test.** -- (a) Any person who operates a motor  
13 vehicle within this state shall be deemed to have given his or her consent to chemical tests of his  
14 or her breath, blood, and/or urine for the purpose of determining the chemical content of his or  
15 her body fluids or breath. No more than two (2) complete tests, one for the presence of  
16 intoxicating liquor and one for the presence of toluene or any controlled substance, as defined in  
17 section 21-28-1.02(7), shall be administered at the direction of a law enforcement officer having  
18 reasonable grounds to believe the person to have been driving a motor vehicle within this state  
19 while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, toluene, or any controlled substance, as defined  
20 in chapter 28 of title 21, or any combination of these. The director of the department of health is  
21 empowered to make and file with the secretary of state, regulations which prescribe the  
22 techniques and methods of chemical analysis of the person's body fluids or breath and the  
23 qualifications and certification of individuals authorized to administer the testing and analysis.

24 (b) If a person for religious or medical reasons cannot be subjected to blood tests, the  
25 person may file an affidavit with the division of motor vehicles stating the reasons why he or she  
26 cannot be required to take blood tests, and a notation to this effect shall be made on his or her  
27 license. If that person is asked to submit to chemical tests as provided under this chapter, the  
28 person shall only be required to submit to chemical tests of his or her breath or urine. When a  
29 person is requested to submit to blood tests, only a physician or registered nurse or a medical  
30 technician certified under regulations promulgated by the director of the department of health  
31 may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content in it. This limitation  
32 shall not apply to the taking of breath or urine specimens. The person tested shall be permitted to  
33 have a physician of his or her own choosing and at his or her own expense administer chemical  
34 tests of his or her breath, blood, and/or urine in addition to the tests administered at the direction

1 of a law enforcement officer. If a person having been placed under arrest refuses upon the request  
2 of a law enforcement officer to submit to the tests, as provided in section 31-27-2, none shall be  
3 given, but a judge of the traffic tribunal or district court judge, upon receipt of a report of a law  
4 enforcement officer: that he or she had reasonable grounds to believe the arrested person had  
5 been driving a motor vehicle within this state under the influence of intoxicating liquor, toluene,  
6 or any controlled substance, as defined in chapter 28 of title 21, or any combination of these; that  
7 the person had been informed of his or her rights in accordance with section 31-27-3; that the  
8 person had been informed of the penalties incurred as a result of noncompliance with this section;  
9 and that the person had refused to submit to the tests upon the request of a law enforcement  
10 officer; shall promptly order that the person's operator's license or privilege to operate a motor  
11 vehicle in this state be immediately suspended and that the person's license be surrendered within  
12 five (5) days of notice of suspension. A traffic tribunal judge or a district court judge pursuant to  
13 the terms of subsection (c) of this section shall order as follows:

14 (1) Impose for the first violation a fine in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200) to  
15 five hundred dollars (\$500) and shall order the person to perform ten (10) to sixty (60) hours of  
16 public community restitution. The person's driving license in this state shall be suspended for a  
17 period of six (6) months to one year. The traffic tribunal judge shall require attendance at a  
18 special course on driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance and/or  
19 alcohol or drug treatment for the individual. [The traffic tribunal judge or magistrate may prohibit](#)  
20 [that person from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system](#)  
21 [as provided in section 31-27-2.8.](#)

22 (2) Every person convicted for a second violation within a five (5) year period shall be  
23 guilty of a misdemeanor, shall be imprisoned for not more than six (6) months and shall pay a  
24 fine in the amount of six hundred dollars (\$600) to one thousand dollars (\$1,000), order the  
25 person to perform sixty (60) to one hundred (100) hours of public community restitution, and the  
26 person's driving license in this state shall be suspended for a period of one year to two (2) years.  
27 The judge shall require alcohol and/or drug treatment for the individual. [The sentencing judge or](#)  
28 [magistrate may prohibit that person from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an](#)  
29 [ignition interlock system as provided in section 31-27-2.8.](#)

30 (3) Every person convicted for a third or subsequent violation within a five (5) year  
31 period shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be imprisoned for not more than one year, fined  
32 eight hundred dollars (\$800) to one thousand dollars (\$1,000), order the person to perform not  
33 less than one hundred (100) hours of public community restitution, and the person's operator's  
34 license in this state shall be suspended for a period of two (2) years to five (5) years. [The](#)

1 [sentencing judge or magistrate may prohibit that person from operating a motor vehicle that is not](#)  
2 [equipped with an ignition interlock system as provided in section 31-27-2.8.](#) The judge shall  
3 require alcohol or drug treatment for the individual. Provided, that prior to the reinstatement of a  
4 license to a person charged with a third or subsequent violation within a three (3) year period, a  
5 hearing shall be held before a judge. At the hearing the judge shall review the person's driving  
6 record, his or her employment history, family background, and any other pertinent factors that  
7 would indicate that the person has demonstrated behavior which warrants the reinstatement of his  
8 or her license.

9 (4) For purposes of determining the period of license suspension, a prior violation shall  
10 constitute any charge brought and sustained under the provisions of this section or section 31-27-  
11 2.

12 (5) In addition to any other fines, a highway safety assessment of five hundred dollars  
13 (\$500) shall be paid by any person found in violation of this section, the assessment to be  
14 deposited into the general fund. The assessment provided for by this subsection shall be collected  
15 from a violator before any other fines authorized by this section.

16 (6) In addition to any other fines and highway safety assessments, a two hundred dollar  
17 (\$200) assessment shall be paid by any person found in violation of this section to support the  
18 department of health's chemical testing programs outlined in section 31-27-2(4), which shall be  
19 deposited as general revenues, not restricted receipts.

20 (7) No fines, suspensions, assessments, alcohol or drug treatment programs, course on  
21 driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance, or public community  
22 restitution provided for under this section, can be suspended.

23 (c) Upon suspending or refusing to issue a license or permit as provided in subsection (a)  
24 of this section, the traffic tribunal or district court shall immediately notify the person involved in  
25 writing, and upon his or her request, within fifteen (15) days shall afford the person an  
26 opportunity for a hearing as early as practical upon receipt of a request in writing. Upon a hearing  
27 the judge may administer oaths and may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the  
28 production of relevant books and papers. If the judge finds after the hearing that: (1) the law  
29 enforcement officer making the sworn report had reasonable grounds to believe that the arrested  
30 person had been driving a motor vehicle within this state while under the influence of intoxicating  
31 liquor, toluene, or any controlled substance, as defined in chapter 28 of title 21, or any  
32 combination of these; (2) the person while under arrest refused to submit to the tests upon the  
33 request of a law enforcement officer; (3) the person had been informed of his or her rights in  
34 accordance with section 31-27-3; and (4) the person had been informed of the penalties incurred

1 as a result of noncompliance with this section; the judge shall sustain the violation. The judge  
2 shall then impose the penalties set forth in subsection (b) of this section. Action by the judge must  
3 be taken within seven (7) days after the hearing, or it shall be presumed that the judge has refused  
4 to issue his or her order of suspension.

5 (d) For the purposes of this section, any test of a sample of blood, breath, or urine for the  
6 presence of alcohol which relies in whole or in part upon the principle of infrared light absorption  
7 is considered a chemical test.

8 (e) If any provision of this section or the application of any provision shall for any  
9 reason be judged invalid, the judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of the  
10 section, but shall be confined in this effect to the provisions or application directly involved in the  
11 controversy giving rise to the judgment.

12 SECTION 2. Section 31-27-2.8 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-27 entitled "Motor  
13 Vehicle Offenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 **31-27-2.8. Ignition interlock system imposed as part of sentence -- Requirements. --**

15 Any person convicted under the provisions of ~~section paragraph~~ 31-27-2(d)(2) or (3) (1)(i) or (ii)  
16 or whose violation is sustained under the provisions of subdivision 31-27-2.1(b)(1) may be  
17 prohibited by the sentencing judge from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an  
18 ignition interlock system ~~for a period of not more than two (2) years following the completion of~~  
19 ~~any sentence imposed pursuant to that section.~~ Any person convicted under the provisions of  
20 paragraph 31-27-2(d)(iii), (2) or (3) or subdivision 31-27-2.1(b)(2) or (3) shall be prohibited by  
21 the sentencing judge or magistrate from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an  
22 ignition interlock system.

23 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions contained in this chapter, after a finding of  
24 eligibility, any mandatory period of license suspension may be reduced by the imposition of an  
25 ignition interlock system ordered by the court or traffic tribunal as follows:

26 (1) For a violation of subdivision 31-27-2(d)(1), a person shall be subject to a minimum  
27 thirty (30) day license suspension and an imposition of an ignition interlock system for six (6)  
28 months to one year.

29 (2) For a violation of subdivision 31-27-2.1(b)(1), a person shall be subject to a minimum  
30 thirty (30) day license suspension and an imposition of an ignition interlock system for one to two  
31 (2) years.

32 (3) For a violation of subdivision 31-27-2(d)(2), a person shall be subject to a minimum  
33 sixty (60) day license suspension and an imposition of an ignition interlock system for one to two  
34 (2) years.

1           (4) For a violation of subdivision 31-27-2.1(b)(2), a person shall be subject to a minimum  
2 sixty (60) day license suspension and an imposition of an ignition interlock system for two (2) to  
3 four (4) years.

4           (5) For a violation of subdivision 31-27-2(d)(3), a person shall be subject to a minimum  
5 ninety (90) day license suspension and imposition of an ignition interlock system for two (2) to  
6 four (4) years.

7           (6) For a violation of subdivision 31-27-2.1(b)(3), a person shall be subject to a minimum  
8 ninety (90) day license suspension and imposition of an ignition interlock system for four (4) to  
9 ten (10) years.

10          (c) Any person convicted of an offense of driving under the influence of liquor or drugs  
11 resulting in death, section 31-27-2.2, driving under the influence of liquor or drugs resulting in  
12 serious bodily injury, section 31-27-2.6, driving to endanger resulting in death, section 31-27-1,  
13 or driving to endanger resulting in serious bodily injury, section 31-27-1.1, may, in addition to  
14 any other penalties provided by law, be prohibited from operating a motor vehicle which is not  
15 equipped with an approved ignition interlock system for one to five (5) years.

16          (d) Any person who operates a motor vehicle with a suspended license and the reason for  
17 the suspension was due to a conviction of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol or a  
18 sustained violation or conviction of refusal to submit to a chemical test, shall be subject to the  
19 imposition of an ignition interlock system for six (6) months to be ordered by the court or the  
20 traffic tribunal.

21          (e) When the court orders the use of an ignition interlock system, the judge or magistrate  
22 shall cause an appropriate notation to be made on the person's record which clearly sets forth the  
23 requirement for and the period of the use of the ignition interlock system.

24          (f) In addition to the requirements of subsection (e) of this section, the court or traffic  
25 tribunal shall:

26           (1) Require proof of the installation of the ignition interlock system and periodic  
27 reporting by the person for the purpose of verification of the proper operation of the ignition  
28 interlock system;

29           (2) Require the person to have the ignition interlock system monitored for the proper use  
30 and accuracy by a person, firm, corporation or other association to be approved by the division of  
31 motor vehicles at least once every six (6) months, or more frequently as the circumstances may  
32 require; and

33           (3) Require the person to pay the reasonable cost of leasing or buying, monitoring and  
34 maintenance of the ignition interlock system.

1 (g) If a person is required, in the course of the person's employment, to operate a motor  
2 vehicle owned or provided by the person's employer, the person may operate that motor vehicle  
3 in the course of the person's employment without installation of an ignition interlock system if  
4 the court makes specific findings expressly permitting the person to operate in the course of the  
5 person's employment a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system.

6 (h) Any person subject to an ignition interlock order who violates such order shall be  
7 guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year imprisonment or a fine of up to one  
8 thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both. For the purposes of this subsection, a violation of the interlock  
9 order, includes, but is not limited to:

10 (1) Altering, tampering or in any way attempting to circumvent the operation of an  
11 ignition interlock system that has been installed in the motor vehicle of a person under this  
12 section:

13 (2) Operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system; or

14 (3) Soliciting or attempting to have another person start a motor vehicle equipped with an  
15 ignition interlock system for the purpose of providing an operable motor vehicle to a person who  
16 is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock  
17 system.

18 (i) Any person who attempts to start or starts a motor vehicle equipped with an ignition  
19 interlock system, tampers with or in any way attempts to circumvent, the operation of an ignition  
20 interlock system that has been installed in the motor vehicle for the purpose of providing an  
21 operable motor vehicle to a person who is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle that is not  
22 equipped with an ignition interlock system shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to  
23 one year imprisonment or a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both.

24 SECTION 3. Sections 31-49-2, 31-49-3, 31-49-4, 31-49-5 and 31-49-6 of the General  
25 Laws in Chapter 31-49 entitled "Ignition Interlock Systems" are hereby amended to read as  
26 follows:

27 **31-49-2. Certification of ignition interlock systems. --** The division of motor vehicles  
28 shall certify or cause to be certified ignition interlock systems for use in the state, and adopt rules  
29 and regulations for the certification and requirements for participation of the ignition interlock  
30 systems. All costs associated with the installation of the ignition interlock system shall be borne  
31 by the person required to install said system and the division shall charge an administrative fee of  
32 one hundred dollars (\$100) to the person ordered to install said system.

33 **31-49-3. Rules and regulations. -- (a)** The rules and regulations adopted pursuant to  
34 section 31-49-2 shall include requirements that ignition interlock systems:

- 1 (1) Do not impede the safe operation of the vehicle;
- 2 (2) Minimize opportunities to be bypassed;
- 3 (3) Correlate accurately with established measures of blood alcohol levels;
- 4 (4) Work accurately and reliably in an unsupervised environment;
- 5 (5) Require a proper and accurate measure of blood alcohol levels;
- 6 (6) Resist tampering and provide evidence of attempted tampering;
- 7 (7) Are difficult to circumvent, and require premeditation to circumvent;
- 8 (8) Minimize inconvenience to a sober user;
- 9 (9) Are manufactured by a party responsible for installation, user training, service and
- 10 maintenance;
- 11 (10) Operate reliably over the range of motor vehicle environments or motor vehicle
- 12 manufacturing standards;
- 13 (11) Are manufactured by a person who is adequately insured for products liability; and
- 14 (12) Provide the option for an electronic log of the driver's experience with the system.

15 (b) Prior to the reinstatement of an unrestricted license, the division of motor vehicles  
16 shall review the person's driving record and compliance with the ignition interlock order to  
17 ensure that the person demonstrated behavior which warrants the reinstatement of his or her  
18 license. In the event of non-compliance, the division of motor vehicles has the authority to  
19 impose an additional term of the ignition interlock restriction, but in no instance shall this exceed  
20 one year from the completion of the original ignition interlock order.

21 **31-49-4. Warning label.** -- ~~(a)(1)~~ The division of motor vehicles shall design and adopt  
22 a warning label to be affixed to an ignition interlock system on installation. The warning label  
23 shall state that a person tampering with, circumventing, or otherwise misusing the ignition  
24 interlock system is guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, is subject to a fine up to ~~five~~  
25 ~~hundred dollars (\$500)~~ one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or one year imprisonment, or both.

26 ~~(2) If the court imposes the use of an ignition interlock system, the sentencing judge~~  
27 ~~shall cause an appropriate notation to be made on the person's record which clearly sets forth the~~  
28 ~~requirement for and the period of the use of the system.~~

29 ~~(b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the court shall:~~

30 ~~(1) Require proof of the installation of the system and periodic reporting by the person~~  
31 ~~for the purpose of verification of the proper operation of the system; and~~

32 ~~(2) Require the person to have the system monitored for the proper use and accuracy by~~  
33 ~~a person, firm, corporation or other association to be approved by the department of revenue at~~  
34 ~~least once every six (6) months, or more frequently as the circumstances may require; and~~

1 ~~(3) Shall require the person to pay the reasonable cost of leasing or buying, monitoring~~  
2 ~~and maintenance of the system.~~

3 ~~(c) A person prohibited under this section from operating a motor vehicle that is not~~  
4 ~~equipped with an ignition interlock system may not solicit or have another person attempt to start~~  
5 ~~or start a motor vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock system.~~

6 ~~(d) A person may not attempt to start or start a motor vehicle equipped with an ignition~~  
7 ~~interlock system for the purpose of providing an operable motor vehicle to a person who is~~  
8 ~~prohibited under this section from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition~~  
9 ~~interlock system.~~

10 ~~(e) A person may not tamper with, or in any way attempt to circumvent, the operation of~~  
11 ~~an ignition interlock system that has been installed in the motor vehicle of a person under this~~  
12 ~~section.~~

13 ~~(f) (1) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, a person may not~~  
14 ~~knowingly furnish a motor vehicle not equipped with a functioning ignition interlock system to~~  
15 ~~another person who the person knows is prohibited under subsection (b) of this section from~~  
16 ~~operating a motor vehicle not equipped with an ignition interlock system.~~

17 ~~(2) If a person is required, in the course of the person's employment, to operate a motor~~  
18 ~~vehicle owned or provided by the person's employer, the person may operate that motor vehicle~~  
19 ~~in the course of the person's employment without installation of an ignition interlock system if the~~  
20 ~~court has expressly permitted the person to operate in the course of the person's employment a~~  
21 ~~motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system.~~

22 ~~(g) Any person who shall violate the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a~~  
23 ~~misdemeanor.~~

24 **31-49-5. List of certified ignition interlock systems.** -- (a) The ~~administration~~ division  
25 of motor vehicles shall publish a list of certified ignition interlock systems which shall be  
26 included on the division of motor vehicles' website.

27 (b) A manufacturer of an ignition interlock system that seeks to sell or lease the ignition  
28 interlock system to persons subject to the provisions of section 31-27-2 shall pay the costs of  
29 obtaining the required certification.

30 (c) Said manufacturer who shall install and monitor said systems shall be approved by the  
31 division of motor vehicles every year. Said manufacturer shall also submit quarterly reports  
32 concerning proof of installation and proper use of said ignition interlock systems to the division  
33 of motor vehicles, which will be aggregated by the division of motor vehicles.

34 **31-49-6. Selling or leasing ignition interlock systems.** -- (a) A person may not sell or



1 lease or offer to sell or lease an ignition interlock system to a person subject to the provisions of  
2 section ~~31-27-2~~ 31-27-2.8 unless:

3 (1) The system has been certified by the ~~department~~ division of motor vehicles; and

4 (2) A warning label approved by the ~~department~~ division of motor vehicles is affixed to  
5 the system stating that a person who tampers, circumvents, or otherwise misuses the system is  
6 guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction is subject to a fine up to ~~five hundred dollars (\$500)~~  
7 one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or one year imprisonment, or both.

8 (b) A person who sells or leases ignition interlock systems in the state shall:

9 (1) Monitor the use of the system as required by the ~~court~~ division of motor vehicles; and

10 (2) Issue a report of the results of the monitoring to the appropriate office of the division  
11 of motor vehicles and the division of parole and probation.

12 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2014.

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LC00964  
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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

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1           This act would grant judges and magistrates the authority to prohibit drivers adjudicated  
2 of certain motor vehicle offenses from operating a motor vehicle not equipped with an ignition  
3 interlock system.

4           This act would take effect on January 1, 2014.

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LC00964  
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