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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

Introduced By: Representatives Canario, Edwards, Jackson, McLaughlin, and  
Cortvriend

Date Introduced: February 06, 2020

Referred To: House Judiciary

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.**

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

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

17 (2) Whoever drives, or otherwise operates, any vehicle in the state with a blood presence  
18 of any scheduled controlled substance as defined within chapter 28 of title 21, as shown by  
19 analysis of a blood or urine sample, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished as

1 provided in subsection (d).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (d)(1)(i) Every person found to have violated subsection (b)(1) shall be sentenced as  
31 follows: for a first violation whose blood alcohol concentration is eight one-hundredths of one  
32 percent (.08%), but less than one-tenth of one percent (.1%), by weight, or who has a blood  
33 presence of any scheduled controlled substance as defined in subsection (b)(2), shall be subject to  
34 a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100), nor more than three hundred dollars (\$300);

1 shall be required to perform ten (10) to sixty (60) hours of public community restitution, and/or  
2 shall be imprisoned for up to one year. The sentence may be served in any unit of the adult  
3 correctional institutions in the discretion of the sentencing judge and/or shall be required to attend  
4 a special course on driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance;  
5 provided, however, that the court may permit a servicemember or veteran to complete any court-  
6 approved counseling program administered or approved by the Veterans' Administration, and his  
7 or her driver's license shall be suspended for thirty (30) days up to one hundred eighty (180) days.  
8 The sentencing judge or magistrate may prohibit that person from operating a motor vehicle that  
9 is not equipped with an ignition interlock system as provided in § 31-27-2.8.

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

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

1 Administration. The sentencing judge or magistrate shall prohibit that person from operating a  
2 motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system as provided in § 31-27-2.8.

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

20 (ii) Every person convicted of a second violation within a five-year (5) period whose  
21 blood alcohol concentration is fifteen hundredths of one percent (.15%) or above, by weight as  
22 shown by a chemical analysis of a blood, breath, or urine sample, or who is under the influence of  
23 a drug, toluene, or any controlled substance as defined in subsection (b)(1), shall be subject to  
24 mandatory imprisonment of not less than six (6) months, nor more than one year; a mandatory  
25 fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and a mandatory license suspension for a  
26 period of two (2) years from the date of completion of the sentence imposed under this  
27 subsection. The sentencing judge shall require alcohol or drug treatment for the individual;  
28 provided, however, that the court may permit a servicemember or veteran to complete any court  
29 approved counseling program administered or approved by the Veterans' Administration. The  
30 sentencing judge or magistrate shall prohibit that person from operating a motor vehicle that is  
31 not equipped with an ignition interlock system as provided in § 31-27-2.8.

32 (3)(i) Every person convicted of a third or subsequent violation within a five-year (5)  
33 period with a blood alcohol concentration of eight one-hundredths of one percent (.08%) or  
34 above, but less than fifteen hundredths of one percent (.15%), or whose blood alcohol

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

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

25 (iii) In addition to the foregoing penalties, every person convicted of a third or  
26 subsequent violation within a five-year (5) period, regardless of whether any prior violation and  
27 subsequent conviction was a violation and subsequent conviction under this statute or under the  
28 driving under the influence of liquor or drugs statute of any other state, shall be subject, in the  
29 discretion of the sentencing judge, to having the vehicle owned and operated by the violator  
30 seized and sold by the state of Rhode Island, with all funds obtained by the sale to be transferred  
31 to the general fund.

32 (4) Whoever drives or otherwise operates any vehicle in the state while under the  
33 influence of any intoxicating liquor, drugs, toluene, or any controlled substance as defined in  
34 chapter 28 of title 21, or any combination of these, when his or her license to operate is

1 suspended, revoked, or cancelled for operating under the influence of a narcotic drug or  
2 intoxicating liquor, shall be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than three  
3 (3) years and by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000). The court shall require  
4 alcohol and/or drug treatment for the individual; provided, the penalties provided for in this  
5 subsection (d)(4) shall not apply to an individual who has surrendered his or her license and  
6 served the court-ordered period of suspension, but who, for any reason, has not had his or her  
7 license reinstated after the period of suspension, revocation, or suspension has expired; provided,  
8 further, the individual shall be subject to the provisions of subdivision (d)(2)(i), (d)(2)(ii),  
9 (d)(3)(i), (d)(3)(ii), or (d)(3)(iii) regarding subsequent offenses, and any other applicable  
10 provision of this section.

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

13 (ii) Any person over the age of eighteen (18) who is convicted under this section for  
14 operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, other drugs, or a combination of  
15 these, while a child under the age of thirteen (13) years was present as a passenger in the motor  
16 vehicle when the offense was committed shall be subject to immediate license suspension  
17 pending prosecution. Any person convicted of violating this section shall be guilty of a  
18 misdemeanor for a first offense and may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than  
19 one year and a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). Any person convicted of a  
20 second or subsequent offense shall be guilty of a felony offense and may be sentenced to a term  
21 of imprisonment of not more than five (5) years and a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars  
22 (\$5,000). The sentencing judge shall also order a license suspension of up to two (2) years,  
23 require attendance at a special course on driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a  
24 controlled substance, and alcohol or drug education and/or treatment. The individual may also be  
25 required to pay a highway assessment fee of no more than five hundred dollars (\$500) and the  
26 assessment shall be deposited in the general fund.

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

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

33 (iii) Any person convicted of a violation under this section shall be assessed a substance  
34 abuse education fee of three hundred dollars (\$300), which shall be deposited as general revenues

1 [to be allocated by the department of behavioral healthcare, development disabilities and hospitals](#)  
2 [\(BHDDH\) and used to fund substance abuse prevention programs and student assistance](#)  
3 [programs for youth pursuant to chapters 21.1 and 21.3 of title 16, and in accordance with the](#)  
4 [criteria set forth in §§ 16-21.2\(a\) and 16-21.3-2\(a\).](#)

5 (7)(i) If the person convicted of violating this section is under the age of eighteen (18)  
6 years, for the first violation he or she shall be required to perform ten (10) to sixty (60) hours of  
7 public community restitution and the juvenile's driving license shall be suspended for a period of  
8 six (6) months, and may be suspended for a period up to eighteen (18) months. The sentencing  
9 judge shall also require attendance at a special course on driving while intoxicated or under the  
10 influence of a controlled substance and alcohol or drug education and/or treatment for the  
11 juvenile. The juvenile may also be required to pay a highway assessment fine of no more than  
12 five hundred dollars (\$500) and the assessment imposed shall be deposited into the general fund.

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

21 (8) Any person convicted of a violation under this section may undergo a clinical  
22 assessment at the community college of Rhode Island's center for workforce and community  
23 education. Should this clinical assessment determine problems of alcohol, drug abuse, or  
24 psychological problems associated with alcoholic or drug abuse, this person shall be referred to  
25 an appropriate facility, licensed or approved by the department of behavioral healthcare,  
26 developmental disabilities and hospitals, for treatment placement, case management, and  
27 monitoring. In the case of a servicemember or veteran, the court may order that the person be  
28 evaluated through the Veterans' Administration. Should the clinical assessment determine  
29 problems of alcohol, drug abuse, or psychological problems associated with alcohol or drug  
30 abuse, the person may have their treatment, case management, and monitoring administered or  
31 approved by the Veterans' Administration.

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

34 (f)(1) There is established an alcohol and drug safety unit within the division of motor

1 vehicles to administer an alcohol safety action program. The program shall provide for placement  
2 and follow-up for persons who are required to pay the highway safety assessment. The alcohol  
3 and drug safety action program will be administered in conjunction with alcohol and drug  
4 programs licensed by the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and  
5 hospitals.

6 (2) Persons convicted under the provisions of this chapter shall be required to attend a  
7 special course on driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance,  
8 and/or participate in an alcohol or drug treatment program; provided, however, that the court may  
9 permit a servicemember or veteran to complete any court-approved counseling program  
10 administered or approved by the Veterans' Administration. The course shall take into  
11 consideration any language barrier that may exist as to any person ordered to attend, and shall  
12 provide for instruction reasonably calculated to communicate the purposes of the course in  
13 accordance with the requirements of the subsection. Any costs reasonably incurred in connection  
14 with the provision of this accommodation shall be borne by the person being retrained. A copy of  
15 any violation under this section shall be forwarded by the court to the alcohol and drug safety  
16 unit. In the event that persons convicted under the provisions of this chapter fail to attend and  
17 complete the above course or treatment program, as ordered by the judge, then the person may be  
18 brought before the court, and after a hearing as to why the order of the court was not followed,  
19 may be sentenced to jail for a period not exceeding one year.

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

22 (g) The director of the department of health is empowered to make and file with the  
23 secretary of state regulations that prescribe the techniques and methods of chemical analysis of  
24 the person's body fluids or breath and the qualifications and certification of individuals authorized  
25 to administer this testing and analysis.

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

34 (i) No fines, suspensions, assessments, alcohol or drug treatment programs, course on



1 driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance, public community  
2 restitution, or jail provided for under this section can be suspended.

3 (j) An order to attend a special course on driving while intoxicated, that shall be  
4 administered in cooperation with a college or university accredited by the state, shall include a  
5 provision to pay a reasonable tuition for the course in an amount not less than twenty-five dollars  
6 (\$25.00), and a fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175), which fee shall be deposited into  
7 the general fund.

8 (k) For the purposes of this section, any test of a sample of blood, breath, or urine for the  
9 presence of alcohol that relies in whole or in part upon the principle of infrared light absorption is  
10 considered a chemical test.

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

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

20 **31-27-2.1. Refusal to submit to chemical test.**

21 (a) Any person who operates a motor vehicle within this state shall be deemed to have  
22 given his or her consent to chemical tests of his or her breath, blood, and/or urine for the purpose  
23 of determining the chemical content of his or her body fluids or breath. No more than two (2)  
24 complete tests, one for the presence of intoxicating liquor and one for the presence of toluene or  
25 any controlled substance, as defined in § 21-28-1.02(8), shall be administered at the direction of a  
26 law enforcement officer having reasonable grounds to believe the person to have been driving a  
27 motor vehicle within this state while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, toluene, or any  
28 controlled substance, as defined in chapter 28 of title 21, or any combination of these. The  
29 director of the department of health is empowered to make and file, with the secretary of state,  
30 regulations that prescribe the techniques and methods of chemical analysis of the person's body  
31 fluids or breath and the qualifications and certification of individuals authorized to administer the  
32 testing and analysis.

33 (b) If a person, for religious or medical reasons, cannot be subjected to blood tests, the  
34 person may file an affidavit with the division of motor vehicles stating the reasons why he or she

1 cannot be required to take blood tests and a notation to this effect shall be made on his or her  
2 license. If that person is asked to submit to chemical tests as provided under this chapter, the  
3 person shall only be required to submit to chemical tests of his or her breath or urine. When a  
4 person is requested to submit to blood tests, only a physician or registered nurse, or a medical  
5 technician certified under regulations promulgated by the director of the department of health,  
6 may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content in it. This limitation  
7 shall not apply to the taking of breath or urine specimens. The person tested shall be permitted to  
8 have a physician of his or her own choosing, and at his or her own expense, administer chemical  
9 tests of his or her breath, blood, and/or urine in addition to the tests administered at the direction  
10 of a law enforcement officer. If a person, having been placed under arrest, refuses upon the  
11 request of a law enforcement officer to submit to the tests, as provided in § 31-27-2, none shall be  
12 given, but a judge or magistrate of the traffic tribunal or district court judge or magistrate, upon  
13 receipt of a report of a law enforcement officer: that he or she had reasonable grounds to believe  
14 the arrested person had been driving a motor vehicle within this state under the influence of  
15 intoxicating liquor, toluene, or any controlled substance, as defined in chapter 28 of title 21, or  
16 any combination of these; that the person had been informed of his or her rights in accordance  
17 with § 31-27-3; that the person had been informed of the penalties incurred as a result of  
18 noncompliance with this section; and that the person had refused to submit to the tests upon the  
19 request of a law enforcement officer; shall promptly order that the person's operator's license or  
20 privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state be immediately suspended, however, said  
21 suspension shall be subject to the hardship provisions enumerated in § 31-27-2.8. A traffic  
22 tribunal judge or magistrate, or a district court judge or magistrate, pursuant to the terms of  
23 subsection (c), shall order as follows:

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

32 (2) Every person convicted of a second violation within a five-year (5) period, except  
33 with respect to cases of refusal to submit to a blood test, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; shall  
34 be imprisoned for not more than six (6) months; shall pay a fine in the amount of six hundred

1 dollars (\$600) to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); perform sixty (60) to one hundred (100) hours of  
2 public community restitution; and the person's driving license in this state shall be suspended for  
3 a period of one year to two (2) years. The judge or magistrate shall require alcohol and/or drug  
4 treatment for the individual. The sentencing judge or magistrate shall prohibit that person from  
5 operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system as provided in §  
6 31-27-2.8.

7 (3) Every person convicted for a third or subsequent violation within a five-year (5)  
8 period, except with respect to cases of refusal to submit to a blood test, shall be guilty of a  
9 misdemeanor; and shall be imprisoned for not more than one year; fined eight hundred dollars  
10 (\$800) to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); shall perform not less than one hundred (100) hours of  
11 public community restitution; and the person's operator's license in this state shall be suspended  
12 for a period of two (2) years to five (5) years. The sentencing judge or magistrate shall prohibit  
13 that person from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system  
14 as provided in § 31-27-2.8. The judge or magistrate shall require alcohol or drug treatment for the  
15 individual. Provided, that prior to the reinstatement of a license to a person charged with a third  
16 or subsequent violation within a three-year (3) period, a hearing shall be held before a judge or  
17 magistrate. At the hearing, the judge or magistrate shall review the person's driving record, his or  
18 her employment history, family background, and any other pertinent factors that would indicate  
19 that the person has demonstrated behavior that warrants the reinstatement of his or her license.

20 (4) For a second violation within a five-year (5) period with respect to a case of a refusal  
21 to submit to a blood test, a fine in the amount of six hundred dollars (\$600) to one thousand  
22 dollars (\$1,000); the person shall perform sixty (60) to one hundred (100) hours of public  
23 community restitution; and the person's driving license in this state shall be suspended for a  
24 period of two (2) years. The judicial officer shall require alcohol and/or drug treatment for the  
25 individual. The sentencing judicial officer shall prohibit that person from operating a motor  
26 vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system as provided in § 31-27-2.8. Such a  
27 violation with respect to refusal to submit to a chemical blood test shall be a civil offense.

28 (5) For a third or subsequent violation within a five-year (5) period with respect to a case  
29 of a refusal to submit to a blood test, a fine in the amount of eight hundred dollars (\$800) to one  
30 thousand dollars (\$1,000); the person shall perform not less than one hundred (100) hours of  
31 public community restitution; and the person's driving license in this state shall be suspended for  
32 a period of two (2) to five (5) years. The sentencing judicial officer shall prohibit that person from  
33 operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system as provided in §  
34 31-27-2.8. The judicial officer shall require alcohol and/or drug treatment for the individual. Such

1 a violation with respect to refusal to submit to a chemical test of blood shall be a civil offense.  
2 Provided, that prior to the reinstatement of a license to a person charged with a third or  
3 subsequent violation within a three-year (3) period, a hearing shall be held before a judicial  
4 officer. At the hearing, the judicial officer shall review the person's driving record, his or her  
5 employment history, family background, and any other pertinent factors that would indicate that  
6 the person has demonstrated behavior that warrants the reinstatement of their license.

7 (6) For purposes of determining the period of license suspension, a prior violation shall  
8 constitute any charge brought and sustained under the provisions of this section or § 31-27-2.

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

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

17 (9) Any person convicted of a violation under this section shall be assessed a substance  
18 abuse education fee of three hundred dollars (\$300), which shall be deposited as general revenues  
19 to be allocated by the department of behavioral healthcare, development disabilities and hospitals  
20 (BHDDH) and used to fund substance abuse prevention programs and student assistance  
21 programs for youth pursuant to chapters 21.1 and 21.3 of title 16, and in accordance with the  
22 criteria set forth in §§ 16-21.2(a) and 16-21.3-2(a).

23 ~~(9)~~(10) No fines, suspensions, assessments, alcohol or drug treatment programs, course  
24 on driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance, or public  
25 community restitution provided for under this section can be suspended.

26 (c) Upon suspending or refusing to issue a license or permit as provided in subsection (a),  
27 the traffic tribunal or district court shall immediately notify the person involved in writing, and  
28 upon his or her request, within fifteen (15) days, shall afford the person an opportunity for a  
29 hearing as early as practical upon receipt of a request in writing. Upon a hearing, the judge may  
30 administer oaths and may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of  
31 relevant books and papers. If the judge finds after the hearing that:

32 (1) The law enforcement officer making the sworn report had reasonable grounds to  
33 believe that the arrested person had been driving a motor vehicle within this state while under the  
34 influence of intoxicating liquor, toluene, or any controlled substance, as defined in chapter 28 of

1 title 21, or any combination of these;

2 (2) The person, while under arrest, refused to submit to the tests upon the request of a law  
3 enforcement officer;

4 (3) The person had been informed of his or her rights in accordance with § 31-27-3; and

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

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

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

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021.

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LC003819  
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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 impose a three hundred dollar (\$300) substance abuse education  
2 assessment for any conviction of driving under the influence or a violation for refusal to submit to  
3 a breathalyzer. Those funds would be allocated to the department of behavioral health and used to  
4 fund substance abuse programs.

5           This act would take effect on January 1, 2021.

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