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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Sosnowski, Anderson, Paolino, Morgan, and de la Cruz

Date Introduced: February 25, 2021

Referred To: Senate 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 entitled
2 "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 influence
5 of any intoxicating liquor, drugs, toluene, or any controlled substance as defined in chapter 28 of
6 title 21, or any combination of these, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, except as provided in
7 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 eight
9 one-hundredths of one percent (.08%) or more by weight, as shown by a chemical analysis of a
10 blood, breath, or urine sample, shall be guilty of violating subsection (a). This provision shall not
11 preclude a conviction based on other admissible evidence. Proof of guilt under this section may
12 also be based on evidence that the person charged was under the influence of intoxicating liquor,
13 drugs, toluene, or any controlled substance defined in chapter 28 of title 21, or any combination of
14 these, to a degree that rendered the person incapable of safely operating a vehicle. The fact that any
15 person charged with violating this section is, or has been, legally entitled to use alcohol or a drug
16 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 analysis
19 of a blood or urine sample, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in

1 subsection (d).

2 (c) In any criminal prosecution for a violation of subsection (a), evidence as to the amount
3 of intoxicating liquor, toluene, or any controlled substance as defined in chapter 28 of title 21, or
4 any combination of these, in the defendant's blood at the time alleged as shown by a chemical
5 analysis of the defendant's breath, blood, or urine or other bodily substance, shall be admissible and
6 competent, provided that evidence is presented that the following conditions have been complied
7 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 of
12 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 have
14 a true copy of the report of the test result mailed to him or her within thirty (30) days following the
15 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 tested
19 for accuracy within thirty (30) days preceding the test by personnel qualified as hereinbefore
20 provided, and breathalyzer operators shall be qualified and certified by the department of health
21 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 informed
26 the person of this right and afforded him or her a reasonable opportunity to exercise this right, and
27 a notation to this effect is made in the official records of the case in the police department. Refusal
28 to permit an additional chemical test shall render incompetent and inadmissible in evidence the
29 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 presence
33 of any scheduled controlled substance as defined in subsection (b)(2), shall be subject to a fine of
34 not less than one hundred dollars (\$100), nor more than three hundred dollars (\$300); shall be

1 required to perform ten (10) to sixty (60) hours of public community restitution, and/or shall be
2 imprisoned for up to one year. The sentence may be served in any unit of the adult correctional
3 institutions in the discretion of the sentencing judge and/or shall be required to attend a special
4 course on driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance; provided,
5 however, that the court may permit a servicemember or veteran to complete any court-approved
6 counseling program administered or approved by the Veterans' Administration, and his or her
7 driver's license shall be suspended for thirty (30) days up to one hundred eighty (180) days. The
8 sentencing judge or magistrate may prohibit that person from operating a motor vehicle that is not
9 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 than
13 one hundred (\$100) dollars, nor more than four hundred dollars (\$400), and shall be required to
14 perform ten (10) to sixty (60) hours of public community restitution and/or shall be imprisoned for
15 up to one year. The sentence may be served in any unit of the adult correctional institutions in the
16 discretion of the sentencing judge. The person's driving license shall be suspended for a period of
17 three (3) months to twelve (12) months. The sentencing judge shall require attendance at a special
18 course on driving while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance and/or
19 alcoholic or drug treatment for the individual; provided, however, that the court may permit a
20 servicemember or veteran to complete any court-approved counseling program administered or
21 approved by the Veterans' Administration. The sentencing judge or magistrate may prohibit that
22 person from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system as
23 provided in § 31-27-2.8.

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

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

20 (ii) Every person convicted of a second violation within a ~~five-year (5)~~ ten-year (10) period
21 whose blood alcohol concentration is fifteen hundredths of one percent (.15%) or above, by weight
22 as shown by a chemical analysis of a blood, breath, or urine sample, or who is under the influence
23 of 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 fine
25 of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and a mandatory license suspension for a period of
26 two (2) years from the date of completion of the sentence imposed under this subsection. The
27 sentencing judge shall require alcohol or drug treatment for the individual; provided, however, that
28 the court may permit a servicemember or veteran to complete any court approved counseling
29 program administered or approved by the Veterans' Administration. The sentencing judge or
30 magistrate shall 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 (3)(i) Every person convicted of a third or subsequent violation within a ~~five-year (5)~~ ten-
33 year (10) period with a blood alcohol concentration of eight one-hundredths of one percent (.08%)
34 or 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 influence
4 of liquor or drugs statute of any other state, shall be guilty of a felony and be subject to a mandatory
5 fine of four hundred (\$400) dollars. The person's driving license shall be suspended for a period of
6 two (2) years to three (3) years, and the individual shall be sentenced to not less than one year and
7 not more than three (3) years in jail. The sentence may be served in any unit of the adult correctional
8 institutions in the discretion of the sentencing judge; however, not less than forty-eight (48) hours
9 of imprisonment shall be served consecutively. The sentencing judge shall require alcohol or drug
10 treatment for the individual; provided, however, that the court may permit a servicemember or
11 veteran to complete any court-approved counseling program administered or approved by the
12 Veterans' Administration, and shall prohibit that person from operating a motor vehicle that is not
13 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)~~ ten-
15 year (10) period whose blood alcohol concentration is fifteen hundredths of one percent (.15%)
16 above by weight as shown by a chemical analysis of a blood, breath, or urine sample, or who is
17 under the influence of a drug, toluene, or any controlled substance as defined in subsection (b)(1),
18 shall be subject to mandatory imprisonment of not less than three (3) years, nor more than five (5)
19 years; a 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 subsequent
26 violation within a ~~five-year (5)~~ ten-year (10) 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 seized
30 and sold by the state of Rhode Island, with all funds obtained by the sale to be transferred to the
31 general fund.

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

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

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

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

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

30 (ii) Any person convicted of a violation under this section shall be assessed a fee of eighty-
31 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 juvenile.
4 The juvenile may also be required to pay a highway assessment fine of no more than five hundred
5 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) years,
7 for a second or subsequent violation regardless of whether any prior violation and subsequent
8 conviction was a violation and subsequent conviction under this statute or under the driving under
9 the influence of liquor or drugs statute of any other state, he or she shall be subject to a mandatory
10 suspension of his or her driving license until such time as he or she is twenty-one (21) years of age
11 and may, in the discretion of the sentencing judge, also be sentenced to the Rhode Island training
12 school for a period of not more than one year and/or a fine of not more than five hundred dollars
13 (\$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 an
18 appropriate facility, licensed or approved by the department of behavioral healthcare,
19 developmental disabilities and hospitals, for treatment placement, case management, and
20 monitoring. In the case of a servicemember or veteran, the court may order that the person be
21 evaluated through the Veterans' Administration. Should the clinical assessment determine problems
22 of alcohol, drug abuse, or psychological problems associated with alcohol or drug abuse, the person
23 may have their treatment, case management, and monitoring administered or approved by the
24 Veterans' Administration.

25 (e) Percent by weight of alcohol in the blood shall be based upon milligrams of alcohol per
26 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 and
30 drug safety action program will be administered in conjunction with alcohol and drug programs
31 licensed by the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities 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, and/or
34 participate in an alcohol or drug treatment program; provided, however, that the court may permit

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

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

14 (g) The director of the department of health is empowered to make and file with the
15 secretary of state regulations that prescribe the techniques and methods of chemical analysis of the
16 person's body fluids or breath and the qualifications and certification of individuals authorized to
17 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 of
20 eighteen (18) years. The courts shall have full authority to impose any sentence authorized and to
21 order the suspension of any license for violations of this section. All trials in the district court and
22 family court of violations of the section shall be scheduled within thirty (30) days of the arraignment
23 date. No continuance or postponement shall be granted except for good cause shown. Any
24 continuances that are necessary shall be granted for the shortest practicable time. Trials in superior
25 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 that relies in whole or in part upon the principle of infrared light absorption is
2 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 Guard,
11 and has been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

12 **31-27-2.1. Refusal to submit to chemical test.**

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

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

1 breath, blood, and/or urine in addition to the tests administered at the direction of a law enforcement
2 officer. If a person, having been placed under arrest, refuses upon the request of a law enforcement
3 officer to submit to the tests, as provided in § 31-27-2, none shall be given, but a judge or magistrate
4 of the traffic tribunal or district court judge or magistrate, upon receipt of a report of a law
5 enforcement officer: that he or she had reasonable grounds to believe the arrested person had been
6 driving a motor vehicle within this state under the influence of intoxicating liquor, toluene, or any
7 controlled substance, as defined in chapter 28 of title 21, or any combination of these; that the
8 person had been informed of his or her rights in accordance with § 31-27-3; that the person had
9 been informed of the penalties incurred as a result of noncompliance with this section; and that the
10 person had refused to submit to the tests upon the request of a law enforcement officer; shall
11 promptly order that the person's operator's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this
12 state be immediately suspended, however, said suspension shall be subject to the hardship
13 provisions enumerated in § 31-27-2.8. A traffic tribunal judge or magistrate, or a district court judge
14 or magistrate, pursuant to the terms of subsection (c), shall order as follows:

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

23 (2) Every person convicted of a second violation within a ~~five-year (5)~~ ten-year (10) period,
24 except with respect to cases of refusal to submit to a blood test, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor;
25 shall be imprisoned for not more than six (6) months; shall pay a fine in the amount of six hundred
26 dollars (\$600) to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); perform sixty (60) to one hundred (100) hours of
27 public community restitution; and the person's driving license in this state shall be suspended for a
28 period of one year to two (2) years. The judge or magistrate shall require alcohol and/or drug
29 treatment for the individual. The sentencing judge or magistrate shall prohibit that person from
30 operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system as provided in §
31 31-27-2.8.

32 (3) Every person convicted for a third or subsequent violation within a ~~five-year (5)~~ ten-
33 year (10) period, except with respect to cases of refusal to submit to a blood test, shall be guilty of
34 a misdemeanor; and shall be imprisoned for not more than one year; fined eight hundred dollars

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

11 (4) For a second violation within a ~~five-year (5)~~ ten-year (10) period with respect to a case
12 of a refusal to submit to a blood test, a fine in the amount of six hundred dollars (\$600) to one
13 thousand dollars (\$1,000); the person shall perform sixty (60) to one hundred (100) hours of public
14 community restitution; and the person's driving license in this state shall be suspended for a period
15 of two (2) years. The judicial officer shall require alcohol and/or drug treatment for the individual.
16 The sentencing judicial officer shall prohibit that person from operating a motor vehicle that is not
17 equipped with an ignition interlock system as provided in § 31-27-2.8. Such a violation with respect
18 to refusal to submit to a chemical blood test shall be a civil offense.

19 (5) For a third or subsequent violation within a ~~five-year (5)~~ ten-year (10) period with
20 respect to a case of a refusal to submit to a blood test, a fine in the amount of eight hundred dollars
21 (\$800) to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); the person shall perform not less than one hundred (100)
22 hours of public community restitution; and the person's driving license in this state shall be
23 suspended for a period of two (2) to five (5) years. The sentencing judicial officer shall prohibit
24 that person from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system
25 as provided in § 31-27-2.8. The judicial officer shall require alcohol and/or drug treatment for the
26 individual. Such a violation with respect to refusal to submit to a chemical test of blood shall be a
27 civil offense. Provided, that prior to the reinstatement of a license to a person charged with a third
28 or subsequent violation within a three-year (3) period, a hearing shall be held before a judicial
29 officer. At the hearing, the judicial officer shall review the person's driving record, his or her
30 employment history, family background, and any other pertinent factors that would indicate that
31 the person has demonstrated behavior that warrants the reinstatement of their license.

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

34 (7) In addition to any other fines, a highway safety assessment of five hundred dollars

1 (\$500) shall be paid by any person found in violation of this section, the assessment to be deposited
2 into the general fund. The assessment provided for by this subsection shall be collected from a
3 violator before any other fines authorized by this section.

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

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

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

17 (1) The law enforcement officer making the sworn report had reasonable grounds to believe
18 that the arrested person had been driving a motor vehicle within this state while under the influence
19 of intoxicating liquor, toluene, or any controlled substance, as defined in chapter 28 of title 21, or
20 any combination of these;

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

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

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

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

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

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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

1 This act would extend the "lookback" period for third and subsequent offenses involving
2 driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs under § 31-27-2 and for offenses related to failure
3 or refusal to submit to chemical tests under § 31-27-2.1 from five (5) years to ten (10) years.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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