

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-270.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to ignition interlock for first offense driving under the influence of drugs.

[S 282]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 18.2-270.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-270.1. Ignition interlock systems; penalty.

A. For purposes of this section and § 18.2-270.2:

"Commission" means the Commission on VASAP.

"Department" means the Department of Motor Vehicles.

"Ignition interlock system" means a device that (i) connects a motor vehicle ignition system to an analyzer that measures a driver's blood alcohol content; (ii) prevents a motor vehicle ignition from starting if a driver's blood alcohol content exceeds 0.02 percent; and (iii) is equipped with the ability to perform a rolling retest and to electronically log the blood alcohol content during ignition, attempted ignition and rolling retest.

"Rolling retest" means a test of the vehicle operator's blood alcohol content required at random intervals during operation of the vehicle, which triggers the sounding of the horn and flashing of lights if (i) the test indicates that the operator has a blood alcohol content which exceeds 0.02 percent or (ii) the operator fails to take the test.

B. In addition to any penalty provided by law for a conviction under § 18.2-51.4 or *clauses (i), (ii), or (iv) of § 18.2-266* or a substantially similar ordinance of any county, city, or town, any court of proper jurisdiction shall, as a condition of a restricted license, prohibit an offender from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a functioning, certified ignition interlock system for any period of time not to exceed the period of license suspension and restriction, not less than six consecutive months without alcohol-related violations of the interlock requirements. *In addition to any penalty provided by law for a conviction under clauses (iii) or (v) of § 18.2-266 or a substantially similar ordinance of any county, city, or town, any court of proper jurisdiction may, for a first offense, as a condition of a restricted license, prohibit an offender from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a functioning, certified ignition interlock system for any period of time not to exceed the period of license suspension and restriction, not less than six consecutive months without alcohol-related violations of the interlock requirements.* The court shall, for a conviction under § 18.2-51.4, a second or subsequent offense of § 18.2-266 or a substantially similar ordinance of any county, city or town, or as a condition of license restoration pursuant to subsection C of § 18.2-271.1 or § 46.2-391, require that such a system be installed on each motor vehicle, as defined in § 46.2-100, owned by or registered to the offender, in whole or in part, for such period of time. Such condition shall be in addition to any purposes for which a restricted license may be issued pursuant to § 18.2-271.1. The court may order the installation of an ignition interlock system to commence immediately upon conviction. A fee of \$20 to cover court and administrative costs related to the ignition interlock system shall be paid by any such offender to the clerk of the court. The court shall require the offender to install an electronic log device with the ignition interlock system on a vehicle designated by the court to measure the blood alcohol content at each attempted ignition and random rolling retest during operation of the vehicle. The offender shall be enrolled in and supervised by an alcohol safety action program pursuant to § 18.2-271.1 and to conditions established by regulation under § 18.2-270.2 by the Commission during the period for which the court has ordered installation of the ignition interlock system. The offender shall be further required to provide to such program, at least quarterly during the period of court ordered ignition interlock installation, a printout from such electronic log indicating the offender's blood alcohol content during such ignitions, attempted ignitions, and rolling retests, and showing attempts to circumvent or tamper with the equipment. The period of time during which the offender (i) is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system or (ii) is required to have an ignition interlock system installed on each motor vehicle owned by or registered to the offender, in whole or in part, shall be calculated from the date the offender is issued a restricted license by the court; however, such period of time shall be tolled upon the expiration of the restricted license issued by the court until such time as the person is issued a restricted license by the Department.

C. In any case in which the court requires the installation of an ignition interlock system, the court shall order the offender not to operate any motor vehicle that is not equipped with such a system for the

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57 period of time that the interlock restriction is in effect. The clerk of the court shall file with the
58 Department of Motor Vehicles a copy of the order, which shall become a part of the offender's
59 operator's license record maintained by the Department. The Department shall issue to the offender for
60 the period during which the interlock restriction is imposed a restricted license which shall appropriately
61 set forth the restrictions required by the court under this subsection and any other restrictions imposed
62 upon the offender's driving privilege, and shall also set forth any exception granted by the court under
63 subsection F.

64 D. The offender shall be ordered to provide the appropriate ASAP program, within 30 days of the
65 effective date of the order of court, proof of the installation of the ignition interlock system. The
66 Program shall require the offender to have the system monitored and calibrated for proper operation at
67 least every 30 days by an entity approved by the Commission under the provisions of § 18.2-270.2 and
68 to demonstrate proof thereof. The offender shall pay the cost of leasing or buying and monitoring and
69 maintaining the ignition interlock system. Absent good cause shown, the court may revoke the offender's
70 driving privilege for failing to (i) timely install such system or (ii) have the system properly monitored
71 and calibrated.

72 E. No person shall start or attempt to start a motor vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock
73 system for the purpose of providing an operable motor vehicle to a person who is prohibited under this
74 section from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system. No person
75 shall tamper with, or in any way attempt to circumvent the operation of, an ignition interlock system
76 that has been installed in the motor vehicle of a person under this section. Except as authorized in
77 subsection F, no person shall knowingly furnish a motor vehicle not equipped with a functioning
78 ignition interlock system to any person prohibited under subsection B from operating any motor vehicle
79 which is not equipped with such system. A violation of this subsection is punishable as a Class 1
80 misdemeanor.

81 F. Any person prohibited from operating a motor vehicle under subsection B may, solely in the
82 course of his employment, operate a motor vehicle that is owned or provided by his employer without
83 installation of an ignition interlock system, if the court expressly permits such operation as a condition
84 of a restricted license at the request of the employer; such person shall not be permitted to operate any
85 other vehicle without a functioning ignition interlock system and, in no event, shall such person be
86 permitted to operate a school bus, school vehicle, or a commercial motor vehicle as defined in
87 § 46.2-341.4. This subsection shall not apply if such employer is an entity wholly or partially owned or
88 controlled by the person otherwise prohibited from operating a vehicle without an ignition interlock
89 system.

90 G. The Commission shall promulgate such regulations and forms as are necessary to implement the
91 procedures outlined in this section.