

20100957D

SENATE BILL NO. 439

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 7, 2020

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-270.1 and 18.2-271.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to driving under the influence; first offenders; license conditions.

Patrons—Surovell, McDougale and Stuart

Referred to Committee on the Judiciary

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 18.2-270.1 and 18.2-271.1 of the Code of Virginia are 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 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. *However, if (i) the conviction was under § 18.2-266 or a substantially similar ordinance of any county, city, or town; (ii) the conviction was for a first offense; (iii) the offender was an adult at the time of the offense; and (iv) the offender's blood alcohol content was less than 0.15, the only restriction of a restricted license that the court shall impose is to prohibit the offender from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a functioning, certified ignition interlock system for 12 consecutive months without alcohol-related violations of the interlock requirements.* The court shall, as a condition of a restricted license 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~~ any period of time, *not less than six consecutive months without alcohol-related violations of the interlock requirements.* Such condition shall be in addition to any purposes for which a restricted license may be issued pursuant to § 18.2-271.1. ~~The~~ *Whenever an ignition interlock system is required, 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) (a) is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system or (ii) (b) is required to have an ignition interlock system installed on each motor vehicle owned by or registered to the offender, in*

INTRODUCED

SB439

59 whole or in part, shall be calculated from the date the offender is issued a restricted license by the
60 court; however, such period of time shall be tolled upon the expiration of the restricted license issued by
61 the court until such time as the person is issued a restricted license by the Department.

62 C. In any case in which the court requires the installation of an ignition interlock system, the court
63 shall order the offender not to operate any motor vehicle that is not equipped with such a system for the
64 period of time that the interlock restriction is in effect. The clerk of the court shall file with the
65 Department of Motor Vehicles a copy of the order, which shall become a part of the offender's
66 operator's license record maintained by the Department. The Department shall issue to the offender for
67 the period during which the interlock restriction is imposed a restricted license which shall appropriately
68 set forth the restrictions required by the court under this subsection and any other restrictions imposed
69 upon the offender's driving privilege, and shall also set forth any exception granted by the court under
70 subsection F.

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

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

88 F. Any person prohibited from operating a motor vehicle under subsection B may, solely in the
89 course of his employment, operate a motor vehicle that is owned or provided by his employer without
90 installation of an ignition interlock system, if the court expressly permits such operation as a condition
91 of a restricted license at the request of the employer; such person shall not be permitted to operate any
92 other vehicle without a functioning ignition interlock system and, in no event, shall such person be
93 permitted to operate a school bus, school vehicle, or a commercial motor vehicle as defined in
94 § 46.2-341.4. This subsection shall not apply if such employer is an entity wholly or partially owned or
95 controlled by the person otherwise prohibited from operating a vehicle without an ignition interlock
96 system.

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

99 **§ 18.2-271.1. Probation, education, and rehabilitation of person charged or convicted; person**
100 **convicted under law of another state or federal law.**

101 A. Any person convicted of a first or second offense of § 18.2-266, or any ordinance of a county,
102 city, or town similar to the provisions thereof, or provisions of subsection A of § 46.2-341.24, shall be
103 required by court order, as a condition of probation or otherwise, to enter into and successfully complete
104 an alcohol safety action program in the judicial district in which such charge is brought or in any other
105 judicial district upon such terms and conditions as the court may set forth. However, upon motion of a
106 person convicted of any such offense following an assessment of the person conducted by an alcohol
107 safety action program, the court, for good cause, may decline to order participation in such a program if
108 the assessment by the alcohol safety action program indicates that intervention is not appropriate for
109 such person. In no event shall such persons be permitted to enter any such program which is not
110 certified as meeting minimum standards and criteria established by the Commission on the Virginia
111 Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) pursuant to this section and to § 18.2-271.2. However, any
112 person charged with a violation of a first or second offense of § 18.2-266, or any ordinance of a county,
113 city, or town similar to the provisions thereof, or provisions of subsection A of § 46.2-341.24, may, at
114 any time prior to trial, enter into an alcohol safety action program in the judicial district in which such
115 charge is brought or in any other judicial district. Any person who enters into such program prior to
116 trial may pre-qualify with the program to have an ignition interlock system installed on any motor
117 vehicle owned or operated by him. However, no ignition interlock company shall install an ignition
118 interlock system on any such vehicle until a court issues to the person a restricted license with the
119 ignition interlock restriction.

120 B. The court shall require the person entering such program under the provisions of this section to

pay a fee of no less than \$250 but no more than \$300. A reasonable portion of such fee, as may be determined by the Commission on VASAP, but not to exceed 10 percent, shall be forwarded monthly to be deposited with the State Treasurer for expenditure by the Commission on VASAP, and the balance shall be held in a separate fund for local administration of driver alcohol rehabilitation programs. Upon a positive finding that the defendant is indigent, the court may reduce or waive the fee. In addition to the costs of the proceeding, fees as may reasonably be required of defendants referred for intervention under any such program may be charged.

C. Upon conviction of a violation of § 18.2-266 or any ordinance of a county, city or town similar to the provisions thereof, or subsection A of § 46.2-341.24, the court shall impose the sentence authorized by § 18.2-270 or 46.2-341.28 and the license revocation as authorized by § 18.2-271. In addition, if the conviction was for a second offense committed within less than 10 years after a first such offense, the court shall order that restoration of the person's license to drive be conditioned upon the installation of an ignition interlock system on each motor vehicle, as defined in § 46.2-100, owned by or registered to the person, in whole or in part, for a period of six months beginning at the end of the three year license revocation, unless such a system has already been installed for six months prior to that time pursuant to a restricted license order under subsection E. Upon a finding that a person so convicted is required to participate in the program described herein, the court shall enter the conviction on the warrant, and shall note that the person so convicted has been referred to such program. The court may then proceed to issue an order in accordance with subsection E, if the court finds that the person so convicted is eligible for a restricted license. If the court finds good cause for a person not to participate in such program or subsequently that such person has violated, without good cause, any of the conditions set forth by the court in entering the program, the court shall dispose of the case as if no program had been entered, in which event the revocation provisions of § 46.2-389 and subsection A of § 46.2-391 shall be applicable to the conviction. The court shall, upon final disposition of the case, send a copy of its order to the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles. If such order provides for the issuance of a restricted license, the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, upon receipt thereof, shall issue a restricted license. The period of time during which the person (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 person, in whole or in part, shall be calculated from the date the person 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 of Motor Vehicles. Appeals from any such disposition shall be allowed as provided by law. The time within which an appeal may be taken shall be calculated from the date of the final disposition of the case or any motion for rehearing, whichever is later.

D. Any person who has been convicted under the law of another state or the United States of an offense substantially similar to the provisions of § 18.2-266 or subsection A of § 46.2-341.24, and whose privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this Commonwealth is subject to revocation under the provisions of § 46.2-389 and subsection A of § 46.2-391, may petition the general district court of the county or city in which he resides that he be given probation and assigned to a program as provided in subsection A and that, upon entry into such program, he be issued an order in accordance with subsection E. If the court finds that such person would have qualified therefor if he had been convicted in this Commonwealth of a violation of § 18.2-266 or subsection A of § 46.2-341.24, the court may grant the petition and may issue an order in accordance with subsection E as to the period of license suspension or revocation imposed pursuant to § 46.2-389 or subsection A of § 46.2-391. The court shall, as a condition of a restricted license, prohibit such person from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a functioning certified ignition interlock system for a period of time not to exceed the period of license suspension and restriction, not less than six consecutive months without alcohol-related violations of interlock requirements. Such order shall be conditioned upon the successful completion of a program by the petitioner. If the court subsequently finds that such person has violated any of the conditions set forth by the court, the court shall dispose of the case as if no program had been entered and shall notify the Commissioner, who shall revoke the person's license in accordance with the provisions of § 46.2-389 or subsection A of § 46.2-391. A copy of the order granting the petition or subsequently revoking or suspending such person's license to operate a motor vehicle shall be forthwith sent to the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The period of time during which the person is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system shall be calculated from the date the person 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 of Motor Vehicles.

No period of license suspension or revocation shall be imposed pursuant to this subsection which, when considered together with any period of license suspension or revocation previously imposed for the

182 same offense under the law of another state or the United States, results in such person's license being
183 suspended for a period in excess of the maximum periods specified in this subsection.

184 E. Except as otherwise provided herein, whenever a person enters a certified program pursuant to this
185 section, and such person's license to operate a motor vehicle, engine or train in the Commonwealth has
186 been suspended or revoked, the court may, in its discretion and for good cause shown, provide that such
187 person be issued a restricted permit to operate a motor vehicle for any of the following purposes: (i)
188 travel to and from his place of employment; (ii) travel to and from an alcohol rehabilitation or safety
189 action program; (iii) travel during the hours of such person's employment if the operation of a motor
190 vehicle is a necessary incident of such employment; (iv) travel to and from school if such person is a
191 student, upon proper written verification to the court that such person is enrolled in a continuing
192 program of education; (v) travel for health care services, including medically necessary transportation of
193 an elderly parent or, as designated by the court, any person residing in the person's household with a
194 serious medical problem upon written verification of need by a licensed health professional; (vi) travel
195 necessary to transport a minor child under the care of such person to and from school, day care, and
196 facilities housing medical service providers; (vii) travel to and from court-ordered visitation with a child
197 of such person; (viii) travel to a screening, evaluation and education program entered pursuant to
198 § 18.2-251 or subsection H of § 18.2-258.1; (ix) travel to and from court appearances in which he is a
199 subpoenaed witness or a party and appointments with his probation officer and to and from any
200 programs required by the court or as a condition of probation; (x) travel to and from a place of religious
201 worship one day per week at a specified time and place; (xi) travel to and from appointments approved
202 by the Division of Child Support Enforcement of the Department of Social Services as a requirement of
203 participation in an administrative or court-ordered intensive case monitoring program for child support
204 for which the participant maintains written proof of the appointment, including written proof of the date
205 and time of the appointment, on his person; (xii) travel to and from jail to serve a sentence when such
206 person has been convicted and sentenced to confinement in jail and pursuant to § 53.1-131.1 the time to
207 be served is on weekends or nonconsecutive days; (xiii) travel to and from the facility that installed or
208 monitors the ignition interlock in the person's vehicle; or (xiv) travel to and from a job interview for
209 which he maintains on his person written proof from the prospective employer of the date, time, and
210 location of the job interview. *However, if (a) the conviction was under § 18.2-266 or a substantially*
211 *similar ordinance of any county, city, or town; (b) the conviction was for a first offense; (c) the offender*
212 *was an adult at the time of the offense; and (d) the offender's blood alcohol content was less than 0.15,*
213 *the only restriction of a restricted license that the court shall impose is to prohibit the offender from*
214 *operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a functioning, certified ignition interlock system for*
215 *12 consecutive months without alcohol-related violations of the interlock requirements.* No restricted
216 license issued pursuant to this subsection shall permit any person to operate a commercial motor vehicle
217 as defined in the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.). The court shall order
218 the surrender of such person's license to operate a motor vehicle to be disposed of in accordance with
219 the provisions of § 46.2-398 and shall forward to the Commissioner of the Department of Motor
220 Vehicles a copy of its order entered pursuant to this subsection, which shall specifically enumerate the
221 restrictions imposed and contain such information regarding the person to whom such a permit is issued
222 as is reasonably necessary to identify such person. The court shall also provide a copy of its order to the
223 person so convicted who may operate a motor vehicle on the order until receipt from the Commissioner
224 of the Department of Motor Vehicles of a restricted license, if the order provides for a restricted license
225 for that time period. A copy of such order and, after receipt thereof, the restricted license shall be
226 carried at all times while operating a motor vehicle. Any person who operates a motor vehicle in
227 violation of any restrictions imposed pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a violation of § 18.2-272.
228 Such restricted license shall be conditioned upon enrollment within 15 days in, and successful
229 completion of, a program as described in subsection A. No restricted license shall be issued during the
230 first four months of a revocation imposed pursuant to subsection B of § 18.2-271 or subsection A of
231 § 46.2-391 for a second offense of the type described therein committed within 10 years of a first such
232 offense. No restricted license shall be issued during the first year of a revocation imposed pursuant to
233 subsection B of § 18.2-271 or subsection A of § 46.2-391 for a second offense of the type described
234 therein committed within five years of a first such offense. No restricted license shall be issued during
235 any revocation period imposed pursuant to subsection C of § 18.2-271 or subsection B of § 46.2-391.
236 Notwithstanding the provisions of § 46.2-411, the fee charged pursuant to § 46.2-411 for reinstatement
237 of the driver's license of any person whose privilege or license has been suspended or revoked as a
238 result of a violation of § 18.2-266, subsection A of § 46.2-341.24 or of any ordinance of a county, city
239 or town, or of any federal law or the laws of any other state similar to the provisions of § 18.2-266 or
240 subsection A of § 46.2-341.24 shall be \$105. Forty dollars of such reinstatement fee shall be retained by
241 the Department of Motor Vehicles as provided in § 46.2-411, \$40 shall be transferred to the Commission
242 on VASAP, and \$25 shall be transferred to the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Trust Fund.

243 F. The court shall have jurisdiction over any person entering such program under any provision of

this section until such time as the case has been disposed of by either successful completion of the program, or revocation due to ineligibility or violation of a condition or conditions imposed by the court, whichever shall first occur. Revocation proceedings shall be commenced by notice to show cause why the court should not revoke the privilege afforded by this section. Such notice shall be made by first-class mail to the last known address of such person, and shall direct such person to appear before the court in response thereto on a date contained in such notice, which shall not be less than 10 days from the date of mailing of the notice. Failure to appear in response to such notice shall of itself be grounds for revocation of such privilege. Notice of revocation under this subsection shall be sent forthwith to the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

G. For the purposes of this section, any court which has convicted a person of a violation of § 18.2-266, subsection A of § 46.2-341.24 or any ordinance of a county, city or town similar to the provisions of § 18.2-266 shall have continuing jurisdiction over such person during any period of license revocation related to that conviction, for the limited purposes of (i) referring such person to a certified alcohol safety action program, (ii) providing for a restricted permit for such person in accordance with the provisions of subsection E, and (iii) imposing terms, conditions and limitations for actions taken pursuant to clauses (i) and (ii), whether or not it took either such action at the time of the conviction. This continuing jurisdiction is subject to the limitations of subsection E that provide that no restricted license shall be issued during a revocation imposed pursuant to subsection C of § 18.2-271 or subsection B of § 46.2-391 or during the first four months or first year, whichever is applicable, of the revocation imposed pursuant to subsection B of § 18.2-271 or subsection A of § 46.2-391. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to a person convicted of a violation of § 18.2-266, subsection A of § 46.2-341.24 or any ordinance of a county, city or town similar to the provisions of § 18.2-266 on, after and at any time prior to July 1, 2003.

H. The State Treasurer, the Commission on VASAP or any city or county is authorized to accept any gifts or bequests of money or property, and any grant, loan, service, payment or property from any source, including the federal government, for the purpose of driver alcohol education. Any such gifts, bequests, grants, loans or payments shall be deposited in the separate fund provided in subsection B.

I. The Commission on VASAP, or any county, city, town, or any combination thereof may establish and, if established, shall operate, in accordance with the standards and criteria required by this subsection, alcohol safety action programs in connection with highway safety. Each such program shall operate under the direction of a local independent policy board chosen in accordance with procedures approved and promulgated by the Commission on VASAP. Local sitting or retired district court judges who regularly hear or heard cases involving driving under the influence and are familiar with their local alcohol safety action programs may serve on such boards. The Commission on VASAP shall establish minimum standards and criteria for the implementation and operation of such programs and shall establish procedures to certify all such programs to ensure that they meet the minimum standards and criteria stipulated by the Commission. The Commission shall also establish criteria for the administration of such programs for public information activities, for accounting procedures, for the auditing requirements of such programs and for the allocation of funds. Funds paid to the Commonwealth hereunder shall be utilized in the discretion of the Commission on VASAP to offset the costs of state programs and local programs run in conjunction with any county, city or town and costs incurred by the Commission. The Commission shall submit an annual report as to actions taken at the close of each calendar year to the Governor and the General Assembly.

J. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section or of § 18.2-271, nothing in this section shall permit the court to suspend, reduce, limit, or otherwise modify any disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle imposed under the provisions of the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.).

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 854 of the Acts of Assembly of 2019 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is \$0 for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.