

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## E2SHB 1614

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning impaired driving.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Goodman, Klippert, Orwall, Hayes, Pellicciotti, Holy, Griffey, Pettigrew, Muri and Haler).

**House Committee on Public Safety**  
**House Committee on Transportation**  
**Senate Committee on Law & Justice**  
**Senate Committee on Transportation**

### **Background:**

#### Vacating Conviction Records.

A person convicted of a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor offense who has completed all of the terms of the sentence and has met other statutory criteria may apply to the sentencing court for a vacation of the record of conviction. Certain convictions cannot be vacated, including convictions for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) or Actual Physical Control While Under the Influence (PC).

A record of conviction for a gross misdemeanor that is considered a "prior offense" under the impaired driving laws may not be vacated if the person has had a subsequent alcohol or drug violation within 10 years of the date of conviction of the prior offense. The term "prior offense" is defined and generally includes convictions for alcohol and drug-related driving offenses, such as negligent driving in the first degree, impaired operation of a vessel, reckless driving if the original charge was DUI, and any deferred prosecution for similar alcohol-related driving offenses.

#### Mandatory Arrest and Hold.

A law enforcement officer must arrest a person without a warrant, and keep him or her in custody pending release on bail, personal recognizance, or a court order, when the officer has probable cause to believe that the person has committed a DUI or PC offense and the officer knows that the person has had at least one prior offense within the previous 10 years. The requirement does not apply if the person requires immediate medical attention and is admitted to a hospital.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

### 24/7 Sobriety Program.

The 24/7 Sobriety Program is a 24-hour and seven-day a week sobriety program in which a participant submits to the testing of the participant's blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances in order to determine the presence of alcohol, marijuana, or any controlled substance in the participant's body. Participants who violate the terms of the program are subject to sanctions. The 24/7 Sobriety Program participants are monitored on the local level by participating law enforcement agencies or other entities designated by local law enforcement agencies. Cities and counties may accept donations, gifts, grants, and other assistance to defray participating agencies' costs of participation in the 24/7 Sobriety Program.

### Criminal and Administrative Penalties for Impaired Driving Convictions.

The criminal penalties associated with a DUI or PC conviction vary according to how many prior offenses the defendant has and the defendant's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at the time of testing.

If a defendant has no prior offenses in seven years, the court must impose a minimum term of imprisonment, a portion of which cannot be suspended unless the court makes written findings that the mandatory minimum sentence would impose a substantial risk to the offender's physical or mental well-being. In lieu of the mandatory minimum, the court may order a term of electronic home monitoring (EHM) or 24/7 Sobriety Program monitoring.

A second or subsequent offense in seven years carries both a mandatory minimum term of incarceration as well as a minimum term of EHM. The court must impose the minimum term of incarceration, but may order at least an additional four or six days of incarceration (depending on the person's BAC at the time of testing) or a term of 24/7 Sobriety Program monitoring in place of the mandatory EHM. If a person has two or three prior offenses, the mandatory minimum EHM may only be replaced by additional incarceration.

In addition to incarceration and other restrictions, there are also mandatory fines and fees associated with a conviction for a DUI or PC offense. These fines and fees include, but are not limited to, court costs, criminal conviction fines, fees for funding the Washington State Toxicology Laboratory and fees for funding the Washington State Patrol for grants and activities to increase the conviction rate and decrease the incidence of persons driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

A person found guilty of DUI or PC is also subject to certain administrative sanctions, including a mandatory term of driver's license suspension or revocation. The period of suspension or revocation ranges between 90 days and four years, depending on the person's BAC at the time of testing and the number of prior offenses. For first time offenders, a portion of the term of driver's license suspension may be avoided through participation in 24/7 Sobriety Program monitoring.

### Ignition Interlock Requirements.

The Department of Licensing (DOL) must require that a person only drive a vehicle equipped with a functioning ignition interlock device in certain circumstances, including:

- when required by court order as a condition of pretrial release;
- while the person has an ignition interlock driver's license;

- when a person is participating in a deferred prosecution for DUI, PC, or other specified offenses;
- during any applicable period of suspension, revocation, or denial of driving privileges due to a conviction for DUI, PC, or other specified offenses; and
- upon order of a court restricting a person who is charged or convicted with any offense involving the use, consumption, or possession of alcohol while operating a motor vehicle.

An ignition interlock user must pay the cost of installing, removing, and leasing the ignition interlock device, unless the ignition interlock company waives costs or the person is indigent. In addition, the user must pay a monthly \$20 fee for deposit into the Ignition Interlock Device Revolving Account. The \$20 fee must be paid directly to the ignition interlock company, which, in turn, remits the fee to the DOL for deposit into the account.

The duration of the ignition interlock restriction depends on the circumstances under which the restriction was imposed. The DOL will not remove a restriction associated with a deferred prosecution or conviction until it receives a declaration from the ignition interlock vendor certifying that the four consecutive months leading up to the removal have been free of certain specified incidents including:

- any attempt to start the vehicle with a BAC of 0.04 or more;
- failure to take any random test;
- failure to pass any random retest with a BAC of 0.025 or lower; or
- failure of the person to appear at the ignition interlock device vendor when required for maintenance, repair, calibration, monitoring, inspection, or replacement of the device.

The period of restriction associated with a deferred prosecution or conviction must be tolled during the period of time that the restricted person does not have an ignition interlock device installed on a vehicle owned or operated by the person.

#### Admissibility of Blood and Breath Tests.

Analysis of a person's blood or breath for purposes of an impaired driving investigation must be performed according to methods approved by the state toxicologist.

A breath test performed by any instrument approved by the state toxicologist is admissible at trial or in an administrative proceeding if there is prima facie evidence of certain factors, including, but not limited to, evidence that: the test was performed by a person authorized by the state toxicologist to perform the test; the person being tested did not vomit or have anything to eat, drink, or smoke for at least 15 minutes prior to administration of the test; and the person being tested did not have any foreign substances, not including dental work, in his or her mouth.

When a blood test is administered for the purpose of determining its alcoholic or drug content, the blood withdrawal may only be performed by statutorily authorized professionals including physicians, nurses, physician assistants, medical assistant-certified or medical-assistant phlebotomists, and advanced emergency medical technicians or paramedics, among others. Proof of a person's qualification to draw blood may be established through the Department of Health's online provider credential search.

The refusal of a person to submit to a test of the alcohol or drug concentration in the person's blood or breath is admissible into evidence at a subsequent trial.

License Suspension for Willful Failure to Appear.

Among other circumstances, the DOL must suspend a person's driver's license when the person willfully fails to appear at a requested hearing for a moving violation or fails to comply with the terms of the notice of a traffic-related criminal complaint. Whenever a person served with a traffic citation or a traffic-related criminal complaint willfully fails to appear or comply, the court must promptly provide notice to the DOL.

**Summary:**

Vacating Conviction Records.

The restrictions on vacating an impaired driving-related "prior offense" are amended to add an express requirement that 10 years has elapsed since the arrest for the prior offense. The current law requirement remains that the applicant must also not have had an alcohol or drug violation within 10 years of the arrest for the vacated offense.

Mandatory Arrest and Hold.

In addition to persons to whom the mandatory arrest and hold provisions currently apply, a person suspected of impaired driving must be arrested without a warrant and held in custody pending release on bail, personal recognizance, or court order when the arresting officer knows that the person is charged with or awaiting arraignment on another offense related to impaired driving.

24/7 Sobriety Program.

Cities and counties may accept local account fund transfers into local 24/7 Sobriety accounts to defray participating agencies' costs of administering local 24/7 Sobriety programs.

Criminal and Administrative Penalties for Impaired Driving Convictions.

For a second impaired driving offense, the court may replace the standard sentence of incarceration and EHM with a minimum of either four or six days in jail (depending on the person's BAC at arrest) and either 180 days of EHM or 120 days of 24/7 Sobriety Program monitoring. Additionally, second time offenders with a lower BAC at the time of testing may avoid up to one year of the mandatory two-year driver's license suspension through participation in 24/7 Sobriety Program monitoring.

An existing \$200 fee imposed on all persons convicted of DUI, PC, Vehicular Homicide, or Vehicular Assault is increased to \$250. The additional \$50 must be distributed to the Highway Safety Fund to be used solely for funding Washington Traffic Safety Commission grants to organizations within counties targeted for programs to reduce impaired driving. A minimum of \$300,000 of these grant funds must support pilot programs in King and Spokane counties that are designed for persons with two or more prior offenses in seven years and include evidence-based assessment, enhanced intensive outpatient substance use disorder treatment, monitoring, and, when needed, priority entry into voluntary or involuntary detoxification services or residential substance use disorder treatment.

### Ignition Interlock Requirements.

A person must have 180 consecutive violation-free days prior to release of an ignition interlock restriction, rather than four months.

A person may receive a medical exemption to the mandatory tolling of the ignition interlock restriction that applies during the period of time that there is no ignition interlock device installed on a restricted person's vehicle. In order to be granted an exemption, a person must obtain a determination from the DOL indicating that the person is unable to operate the ignition interlock due to a physical disability. The DOL may charge a person seeking an exemption a reasonable fee for the assessment.

Ignition interlock companies may retain 25 cents of the monthly \$20 payments that are made by device users in order to offset the companies' administrative costs associated with collection of the payments and remittance to the DOL for deposit in the Ignition Interlock Device Revolving Account.

### Admissibility of Blood and Breath Tests.

An exception is made for piercings in the requirement that, in order for a breath sample to be admissible, the person providing the sample must have nothing in his or her mouth.

In addition to other authorized professionals, all credentialed persons with a scope of practice that includes performing venous blood draws, and forensic phlebotomists, may perform blood draws pursuant to an impaired driving investigation. Persons who are advanced emergency medical technicians or paramedics may perform impaired driving related blood withdrawal if certified under chapter 18.71 RCW, rather than licensed under chapter 18.73 RCW. When a blood test is administered outside of the State of Washington, the withdrawal may be performed by any person who is authorized by the out-of-state jurisdiction to perform venous blood draws.

A forensic phlebotomist is a police officer, a law enforcement officer, or an employee of a correctional or detention facility, who is certified by the DOH to collect venous blood samples for forensic testing and meets any training and proficiency standards of his or her employer. A forensic phlebotomist may only perform a venous blood draw for an impaired driving investigation under specified conditions. If the sample is taken at the scene, it must be performed in an ambulance or aid service vehicle licensed by the DOH, and the collection of the blood sample must not interfere with the provision of essential medical care. Additionally, the blood sample must be collected using sterile equipment, the skin area of puncture must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, and the person whose blood is being collected must be seated, reclined, or lying down while the sample is taken.

The DOH must establish rules specifying minimum qualifications for forensic phlebotomists. These qualifications must include training consistent with Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidelines, between 20 and 30 hours of work in a clinical setting, and at least 100 successful venipunctures. The DOH may not require more than 40 hours of classroom training.

The statute regarding the admissibility of a person's refusal to submit to a blood or breath test is amended to indicate that a refusal to submit to a blood test is admissible if a search warrant, or an exception to the warrant requirement, authorized the seizure.

License Suspension for Willful Failure to Appear or Comply.

A court must notify the DOL of a person who is "provided notice of" (in addition to a person who is "served with") a traffic infraction or a traffic-related criminal complaint, when the person willfully fails to appear or comply as required by the infraction or complaint.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	95	3	
Senate	47	2	(Senate amended)
House	94	2	(House concurred)

**Effective:** July 1, 2017 (Sections 18 and 19)  
July 23, 2017