

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5287

As of February 3, 2025

Title: An act relating to limiting the monetary assistance an indigent person may receive from the ignition interlock device revolving account program.

Brief Description: Limiting the monetary assistance an indigent person may receive from the ignition interlock device revolving account program.

Sponsors: Senators Christian and Torres.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/03/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Limits eligibility for indigent financial assistance for ignition interlock support to no more than two vehicles.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Bryon Moore (786-7726)

Background: A person may apply to the Department of Licensing (DOL) for an ignition interlock driver's license (IIDL) when the person has been convicted of Driving Under the Influence or Personal Control, Vehicular Homicide while under the influence, or Vehicular Assault while under the influence. The IIDL allows the individual to drive a vehicle while their regular driver's license is suspended or revoked for those offenses.

When the ignition interlock restriction follows a conviction for an impaired driving offense, the period of restriction lasts one year, five years, or ten years, depending on the number of prior offenses, and begins after any period of driver's license suspension. If the ignition interlock device is removed or stops functioning, the person's license will be suspended until the device is reinstalled. It is a gross misdemeanor for a person to drive a vehicle

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

without a properly installed device.

An ignition interlock user must pay the cost of installing, removing, and leasing the ignition interlock device. The applicant must pay an application fee of \$100 and a \$21 monthly fee that is deposited into the Ignition Interlock Device Revolving Account (IIDRA).

The uses of the IIDRA funds include paying for DOL's costs in administering the ignition interlock program and for financial assistance to indigent individuals with ignition interlock requirements. The indigent assistance program provides funds to offset the costs of the ignition interlock application, installation, and monthly costs for eligible individuals.

Summary of Bill: DOL is required to adopt rules to limit the monetary assistance an indigent person may receive from the IIDRA to financial assistance to no more than two vehicles per person or, if more practicable, two vehicles per household.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on January 1, 2026.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The previous versions of this legislation would have established a one per-person limitation on the ignition interlocks which might not have been acceptable to some. In the version this year, the limit is set at two per-person. In a year where there is a budget problem, we should be looking for cost savings. If a judge is requiring an individual to have an interlock device on their vehicle to keep the community safe, it seems reasonable that the device cost for more than two vehicles should be at the owner's expense rather than paid by the state.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Leonard Christian, Prime Sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.