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Summary: Ignition interlock devices

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[4/14/2015](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\3975_20150414.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 56‑5‑2941, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES REQUIRING A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR ANOTHER UNLAWFUL SUBSTANCE TO INSTALL AN IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE ON HIS MOTOR VEHICLE, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IF AN INSPECTION REPORT OR PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES COLLECTED BY THE DEVICE SHOWS THAT A PERSON HAS TAMPERED WITH OR DISABLED THE DEVICE, OR ATTEMPTED TO TAMPER WITH OR DISABLE THE DEVICE, OR IF A PERSON WHO IS SUBJECT TO THIS PROVISION HAS SOLICITED OR REQUESTED ANOTHER PERSON TO START A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH A DEVICE INSTALLED OR CONDUCT A RUNNING RETEST OF THE DEVICE MUST BE ASSESSED FOUR IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE POINTS, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION, PAROLE AND PARDON SERVICES AND THE INTERLOCK SERVICE PROVIDERS MUST PURGE ALL PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES COLLECTED BY A DEVICE WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF A PERSON’S COMPLETION OF THE IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE PROGRAM IF THERE ARE NO PENDING APPEALS OR CONTESTED CASE HEARINGS INVOLVED WITH THE PERSON, AND TO PROVIDE THAT BOTH ENTITIES MAY RETAIN PERSONAL INFORMATION REGARDING A PERSON’S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM BEYOND TWELVE MONTHS IF THE INFORMATION IS RELEVANT FOR VENDOR OVERSIGHT, FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY, STATISTICAL ANALYSIS, OR PENDING LEGAL MATTERS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 56‑5‑2941 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 158 of 2014, is further amended to read:

“Section 56‑5‑2941. (A) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall require a person who is a resident of this State and who is convicted of violating the provisions of Section 56‑5‑2930, 56‑5‑2933, 56‑5‑2945, 56‑5‑2947 except if the conviction was for Section 56‑5‑750, or a law of another state that prohibits a person from driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, to have installed on any motor vehicle the person drives an ignition interlock device designed to prevent driving of the motor vehicle if the person has consumed alcoholic beverages. This section does not apply to a person convicted of a first offense violation of Section 56‑5‑2930 or 56‑5‑2933, unless the person submitted to a breath test pursuant to Section 56‑5‑2950 and had an alcohol concentration of fifteen one‑hundredths of one percent or more. The department may waive the requirements of this section if the department determines that the person has a medical condition that makes the person incapable of properly operating the installed device. If the department grants a medical waiver, the department shall suspend the person’s driver’s license for the length of time that the person would have been required to hold an ignition interlock restricted license. The department may withdraw the waiver at any time that the department becomes aware that the person’s medical condition has improved to the extent that the person has become capable of properly operating an installed device. The department also shall require a person who has enrolled in the Ignition Interlock Device Program in lieu of the remainder of a driver’s license suspension or denial of the issuance of a driver’s license or permit to have an ignition interlock device installed on any motor vehicle the person drives.

The length of time that a device is required to be affixed to a motor vehicle as set forth in Sections 56‑1‑286, 56‑5‑2945, 56‑5‑2947 except if the conviction was for Section 56‑5‑750, 56‑5‑2951, and 56‑5‑2990.

(B) Notwithstanding the pleadings, for purposes of a second or a subsequent offense, the specified length of time that a device is required to be affixed to a motor vehicle is based on the Department of Motor Vehicle’s records for offenses pursuant to Section 56‑1‑286, 56‑5‑2930, 56‑5‑2933, 56‑5‑2945, 56‑5‑2947 except if the conviction was for Section 56‑5‑750, 56‑5‑2950, or 56‑5‑2951.

(C) If a resident of this State is convicted of violating a law of another state that prohibits a person from driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, and, as a result of the conviction, the person is subject to an ignition interlock device requirement in the other state, the person is subject to the requirements of this section for the length of time that would have been required for an offense committed in South Carolina, or for the length of time that is required by the other state, whichever is longer.

(D) If a person from another state becomes a resident of South Carolina while subject to an ignition interlock device requirement in another state, the person may only obtain a South Carolina driver’s license if the person enrolls in the South Carolina Ignition Interlock Device Program pursuant to this section. The person is subject to the requirements of this section for the length of time that would have been required for an offense committed in South Carolina, or for the length of time that is required by the other state, whichever is longer.

(E) The person must be subject to an Ignition Interlock Device Point System managed by the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. A person accumulating a total of:

(1) two points or more, but less than three points, must have the length of time that the device is required extended by two months;

(2) three points or more, but less than four points, must have the length of time that the device is required extended by four months, shall submit to a substance abuse assessment pursuant to Section 56‑5‑2990, and shall successfully complete the plan of education and treatment, or both, as recommended by the certified substance abuse program. Should the person not complete the recommended plan, or not make progress toward completing the plan, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the person’s ignition interlock restricted license until the plan is completed or progress is being made toward completing the plan;

(3) four points or more must have the person’s ignition interlock restricted license suspended for a period of six months, shall submit to a substance abuse assessment pursuant to Section 56‑5‑2990, and successfully shall complete the plan of education and treatment, or both, as recommended by the certified substance abuse program. Should the person not complete the recommended plan or not make progress toward completing the plan, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall leave the person’s ignition interlock restricted license in suspended status, or, if the license has already been reinstated following the six‑month suspension, shall resuspend the person’s ignition interlock restricted license until the plan is completed or progress is being made toward completing the plan. The Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services is responsible for notifying the Department of Motor Vehicles of a person’s completion and compliance with education and treatment programs. Upon reinstatement of driving privileges following the six‑month suspension, the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services shall reset the person’s point total to zero points, and the person shall complete the remaining period of time on the ignition interlock device.

(F) The cost of the device must be borne by the person. However, if the person is indigent and cannot afford the cost of the device, the person may submit an affidavit of indigency to the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services for a determination of indigency as it pertains to the cost of the device. The affidavit of indigency form must be made publicly accessible on the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services’ Internet website. If the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services determines that the person is indigent as it pertains to the device, the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services may authorize a device to be affixed to the motor vehicle and the cost of the initial installation and standard use of the device to be paid for by the Ignition Interlock Device Fund managed by the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. Funds remitted to the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services for the Ignition Interlock Device Fund also may be used by the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services to support the Ignition Interlock Device Program. For purposes of this section, a person is indigent if the person is financially unable to afford the cost of the ignition interlock device. In making a determination whether a person is indigent, all factors concerning the person’s financial conditions should be considered including, but not limited to, income, debts, assets, number of dependents claimed for tax purposes, living expenses, and family situation. A presumption that the person is indigent is created if the person’s net family income is less than or equal to the poverty guidelines established and revised annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services published in the Federal Register. ‘Net income’ means gross income minus deductions required by law. The determination of indigency is subject to periodic review at the discretion of the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services.

(G) The ignition interlock service provider shall collect and remit monthly to the Ignition Interlock Device Fund a fee as determined by the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services not to exceed thirty dollars per month for each month the person is required to drive a vehicle with a device. A service provider who fails to properly remit funds to the Ignition Interlock Device Fund may be decertified as a service provider by the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. If a service provider is decertified for failing to remit funds to the Ignition Interlock Device Fund, the cost for removal and replacement of a device must be borne by the service provider.

(H)(1) The person shall have the device inspected every sixty days to verify that the device is affixed to the motor vehicle and properly operating, and to allow for the preparation of an ignition interlock device inspection report by the service provider indicating the person’s alcohol content at each attempt to start and running retest during each sixty‑day period. Failure of the person to have the interlock device inspected every sixty days must result in one ignition interlock device point.

(2) Only a service provider authorized by the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services to perform inspections on ignition interlock devices may conduct inspections. The service provider immediately shall report devices that fail inspection to the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. The report must contain the person’s name, identify the vehicle upon which the failed device is installed, and the reason for the failed inspection.

(3) If the inspection report reflects that the person has failed to complete a running retest, the person must be assessed one ignition interlock device point.

(4) If any inspection report or any photographic images collected by the device shows that the person has violated subsections (M), (O), or (P) of this section, the person must be assessed four ignition interlock device points.

(5) The inspection report must indicate the person’s alcohol content at each attempt to start and running retest during each sixty‑day period. If the report reflects that the person violated a running retest by having an alcohol concentration of:

(a) two one‑hundredths of one percent or more but less than four one‑hundredths of one percent, the person must be assessed one‑half ignition interlock device point;

(b) four one‑hundredths of one percent or more but less than fifteen one‑hundredths of one percent, the person must be assessed one ignition interlock device point; or

(c) fifteen one‑hundredths of one percent or more, the person must be assessed two ignition interlock device points.

~~(5)~~(6) A person may appeal less than four ignition interlock device points received to an administrative hearing officer with the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services through a process established by the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. The administrative hearing officer’s decision on appeal is final and no appeal from such decision is allowed.

(I)(1) If a person’s license is suspended due to the accumulation of four or more ignition interlock device points, the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services must provide a notice of assessment of ignition interlock points which must advise the person of his right to request a contested case hearing before the Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings. The notice of assessment of ignition interlock points also must advise the person that, if he does not request a contested case hearing within thirty days of the issuance of the notice of assessment of ignition interlock points, he waives his right to the administrative hearing and the person’s driver’s license is suspended pursuant to Section 56‑5‑2941(E).

(2) The person may seek relief from the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services determination that a person’s license is suspended due to the accumulation of four or more ignition interlock device points by filing a request for a contested case hearing with the Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act. The filing of the request for a contested case hearing will stay the driver’s license suspension pending the outcome of the hearing. However, the filing of the request for a contested case hearing will not stay the requirements of the person having the ignition interlock device.

(3) At the contested case hearing:

(a) the assessment of driver’s license suspension can be upheld;

(b) the driver’s license suspension can be overturned, or any or all of the contested ignition interlock points included in the device inspection report that results in the contested suspension can be overturned, and the penalties as specified pursuant to Section 56‑5‑2941(E) will then be imposed accordingly.

(4) A contested case hearing must be held after the request for the hearing is received by the Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings. Nothing in this section prohibits the introduction of evidence at the contested case hearing on the issue of the accuracy of the ignition interlock device. However, if the ignition interlock device is found to not be in working order due to failure of regular maintenance and upkeep by the person challenging the accumulation of ignition interlock points pursuant to the requirement of the ignition interlock program, such allegation cannot serve as a basis to overturn point accumulations.

(5) A written order must be issued by the Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings to all parties either reversing or upholding the assessment of ignition interlock points.

(6) A contested case hearing is governed by the Administrative Procedures Act, and a person has a right to appeal the decision of the hearing officer pursuant to that act to the Administrative Law Court in accordance with its appellate rules. The filing of an appeal does not stay the ignition interlock requirement.

(J) Five years from the date of the person’s driver’s license reinstatement and every five years thereafter a fourth or subsequent offender whose license has been reinstated pursuant to Section 56‑1‑385 may apply to the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services for removal of the ignition interlock device and the removal of the restriction from the person’s driver’s license. The Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services may, for good cause shown, notify the Department of Motor Vehicles that the person is eligible to have the restriction removed from the person’s license.

(K)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, it is unlawful for a person who is subject to the provisions of this section to drive a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a properly operating, certified ignition interlock device. A person who violates this subsection:

(a) for a first offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year. The person must have the length of time that the ignition interlock device is required extended by six months;

(b) for a second offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than three years. The person must have the length of time that the ignition interlock device is required extended by one year; and

(c) for a third or subsequent offense, is guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than ten thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than ten years. The person must have the length of time that the ignition interlock device is required extended by three years.

(2) No portion of the minimum sentence imposed pursuant to this subsection may be suspended.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a first or second offense punishable pursuant to this subsection may be tried in summary court.

(L)(1) A person who is required in the course and scope of the person’s employment to drive a motor vehicle owned by the person’s employer may drive the employer’s motor vehicle without installation of an ignition interlock device, provided that the person’s use of the employer’s motor vehicle is solely for the employer’s business purposes. This subsection does not apply to a person who is self employed or to a person who is employed by a business owned in whole or in part by the person or a member of the person’s household or immediate family unless during the defense of a criminal charge, the court finds that the vehicle’s ownership by the business serves a legitimate business purpose and that titling and registration of the vehicle by the business was not done to circumvent the intent of this section.

(2) Whenever the person operates the employer’s vehicle pursuant to this subsection, the person shall have with the person a copy of the Department of Motor Vehicles’ form specified by Section 56‑1‑400(B).

(3) This subsection will be construed in parallel with the requirements of Section 56‑1‑400(B). A waiver issued pursuant to this subsection will be subject to the same review and revocation as described in Section 56‑1‑400(B).

(M) It is unlawful for a person to tamper with or disable, or attempt to tamper with or disable, an ignition interlock device installed on a motor vehicle pursuant to this section. Obstructing or obscuring the camera lens of an ignition interlock device constitutes tampering. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

(N) It is unlawful for a person to knowingly rent, lease, or otherwise provide a person who is subject to this section with a motor vehicle without a properly operating, certified ignition interlock device. This subsection does not apply if the person began the lease contract period for the motor vehicle prior to the person’s arrest for a first offense violation of Section 56‑5‑2930 or Section 56‑5‑2933. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

(O) It is unlawful for a person who is subject to the provisions of this section to solicit or request another person, or for a person to solicit or request another person on behalf of a person who is subject to the provisions of this section, to engage an ignition interlock device to start a motor vehicle with a device installed pursuant to this section or to conduct a running retest while that vehicle is in operation. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

(P) It is unlawful for another person on behalf of a person subject to the provisions of this section to engage an ignition interlock device to start a motor vehicle with a device installed pursuant to this section or to conduct a running retest while that vehicle is in operation. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

(Q) Only ignition interlock devices certified by the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services may be used to fulfill the requirements of this section.

(1) The Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services shall certify whether a device meets the accuracy requirements and specifications provided in guidelines or regulations adopted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, as amended from time to time. All devices certified to be used in South Carolina must be set to prohibit the starting of a motor vehicle when an alcohol concentration of two one‑hundredths of one percent or more is measured and all running retests must record violations of an alcohol concentration of two one‑hundredths of one percent or more, and must capture a photographic image of the driver as the driver is operating the ignition interlock device. The photographic images recorded by the ignition interlock device may be used by the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services to aid in the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services’ management of the Ignition Interlock Device Program; however, neither the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services’ employees, nor any other political subdivision of this State may be held liable for any injury caused by a driver or other person who operates a motor vehicle after the use or attempted use of an ignition interlock device.

(2) The Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services shall maintain a current list of certified ignition interlock devices and manufacturers. The list must be updated at least quarterly. If a particular certified device fails to continue to meet federal requirements, the device must be decertified, may not be used until it is compliant with federal requirements, and must be replaced with a device that meets federal requirements. The cost for removal and replacement must be borne by the manufacturer of the noncertified device.

(3) Only ignition interlock installers certified by the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services may install and service ignition interlock devices required pursuant to this section. The Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services shall maintain a current list of vendors that are certified to install the devices.

(R) In addition to availability under the Freedom of Information Act, any Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services policy concerning ignition interlock devices must be made publicly accessible on the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services’ Internet website. Information obtained by the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and ignition interlock service providers regarding a person’s participation in the Ignition Interlock Device Program is to be used for internal purposes only and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. A person participating in the Ignition Interlock Device Program or the person’s family member may request that the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services provide the person or family member with information obtained by the department and ignition interlock service providers. The Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services may release the information to the person or family member at the department’s discretion. The Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and ignition interlock service providers must purge all photographic images collected by the device no later than twelve months from the date of the person’s completion of the Ignition Interlock Device Program. The Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services may retain the images past twelve months if there are any pending appeals or contested case hearings involved with that person, and at their conclusion must purge the images. The Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and ignition interlock service providers ~~may retain~~ must purge all personal information regarding a person’s participation in the Ignition Interlock Device Program f~~or a period not to exceed eighteen~~ no later than twelve months from the date of the person’s completion of the Ignition Interlock Device Program except for that information which is relevant for vendor oversight, fiscal accountability, statistical analysis, or pending legal matters.

(S) The Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services shall develop policies including, but not limited to, the certification, use, maintenance, and operation of ignition interlock devices and the Ignition Interlock Device Fund.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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