



On behalf of our organizations, we urge your support and swift passage of Senate Bill 7. Passage of this bill will prevent drunk driving and save lives by increasing the use of ignition interlock devices (IIDs). In 2021, 299 people died in DWI crashes in Louisiana – a 32 percent increase from 2020 according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). These deaths are 100 percent preventable.

We are encouraged that the Governor’s call for the special session on crime will address drunk driving. This shows a strong commitment by this administration to keep drunk drivers off the road and saving lives in Louisiana.

SB 7 passed the Senate unanimously on Thursday, February 22nd. The bill has been received in the House from the Senate, and now sits in the House for consideration.

What the Legislation Does: Makes Louisiana Roadways Safer:

- Increases suspension time for a 1st offense from 90 days to 6 months.
- Requires interlock for all convicted drunk drivers.
- Requires interlock for the duration of suspension on all offenses.

By passing this legislation, Louisiana will become eligible to apply for the ignition interlock incentive grant money, from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which Louisiana has not been eligible for because of the 90-day suspension. The grants totaled \$2.5 million in 2023.

In Louisiana, ignition interlocks have stopped 164,535 attempts to drive with a BAC of 0.08 or higher since 2006. In 2022 alone, ignition interlocks stopped 13,339 attempts to drive with a BAC of 0.08 or higher. Nationally, ignition interlocks have stopped over 35 million total attempts to drive drunk over the last 16 years. Ignition interlocks are a cost-effective and proven solution that reduces drunk driving recidivism and helps keep our nation’s roads safe for millions of motorists.

- [Studies](#) show that ignition interlocks reduce recidivism—[by up to 70%](#)— among first-time, repeat and high-risk offenders while they are installed.
- An article studying the effects of [ignition interlock laws on fatal crashes between 1982 and 2013](#) found that mandatory laws for all offenders “would have significant public health benefit” and “are more effective at reducing alcohol-involved fatal crashes than laws requiring interlocks for segments of high-risk offenders.”
- Ignition interlocks are **74% more effective in reducing DUI recidivism** than license suspension alone for first offenders during first 182 days after conviction, according to a 2016 study from the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

This legislation will protect people on the roadways while still allowing drivers with DWIs to continue driving and meeting family and work obligations. If we can be of assistance in your efforts to reduce drunk driving, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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