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FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY



DISTILLED SPIRITS COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES

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April 2, 2026

On behalf of our organizations, we urge your support and swift passage of SB 278, which eliminates the ability to wait out the Ignition interlock period. While all states have passed Ignition Interlock (IID) laws, too many people still drive while impaired and cause crashes, injuries, and fatalities. States are addressing this issue by closing gaps in their IID laws that can be major obstacles to their effectiveness and use. This statutory change closes loopholes in state law that allow DUI offenders to wait out their license suspension period without practicing sober driving with an IID. This is common sense. If an individual chooses not to drive during the license revocation period and applies for reinstatement at the end of that period, the department shall not reinstate the license until proof of IID installation is provided. Once proof is submitted and the license is reinstated, the required IID usage period shall begin on the date of reinstatement.

In Louisiana, ignition interlocks have stopped 190,793 attempts to drive with a BAC of 0.08 or higher since 2006. In 2024 alone, ignition interlocks stopped 12,849 attempts to drive with a BAC of 0.08 or higher. Nationally, ignition interlocks have stopped over 36 million total attempts to drive drunk over the last 18 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 meet family and work obligations. We respectfully request your support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

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