



Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Virginia State

MADD Virginia's Position on Ignition Interlock for Repeat Offenders Bill

February 2002

SB521 (Senator Mims)

Repeat drunk driving offenders have already had a chance to learn not to drink and drive. They are a danger to everyone who shares the road with them. A proven method for keeping repeat offenders from driving drunk is the Ignition Interlock. It is a device that makes the driver perform a sobriety test before starting the engine.

- ?? Ignition Interlock programs have been successful for many states. Reliable research shows that they lower the likelihood of continuing to drive drunk by 65% compared to Repeat Offenders who drive without interlocks.
- ?? The program is self-supporting. Repeat Offenders who wish to keep their driving privileges pay to lease and maintain the equipment. Here are the current costs:
 - ?? \$20 for Court Fees
 - ?? \$50 for installation of the interlock device
 - ?? \$55 plus tax per month to lease the equipment
 - ?? \$5 per month for monitoring
- ?? Drivers with multiple convictions for drunk driving usually have to use "assigned risk" insurance, an expensive category when it comes to automobile insurance. But, most insurance companies will offer discounts for drivers with ignition interlocks. This can defray most of the monthly costs of the interlock system.
- ?? The truly indigent can have most of the costs waived by the court.
- ?? The family who depends on a multiple-offense drunk driver as the breadwinner has a better prospect for financial security when ignition interlock prevents drunk driving.
- ?? The repeat offender's family is safer riding with a sober driver, and it definitely improves safety for the rest of us who share the road with him or her.

Attached you will find thorough information from the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP), the agency that administers the Ignition Interlock program.