

2025 -- H 5897

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF
LICENSES--VIOLATIONS

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Read, Corvese, Hull, Dawson, and McEntee

Date Introduced: February 28, 2025

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Judiciary)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-11-18.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-11 entitled
2 "Suspension or Revocation of Licenses — Violations" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-11-18.1. Driving after denial, revocation, or suspension for certain violations.**

4 (a) Any person who drives a motor vehicle on any highway of this state who never applied
5 for a license or who drives after his or her application for a license has been refused, or after his or
6 her license has expired or who otherwise drives without a license or at a time when his or her license
7 to operate is suspended, revoked, or cancelled, for: (1) operating under the influence of a ~~narcotic~~
8 ~~drug~~ controlled substance or intoxicating liquor; (2) ~~refusing~~ refusal to submit to a chemical test;
9 (3) reckless driving; (3) manslaughter from the operation of a motor vehicle or (4) operating a
10 motor vehicle so as to endanger resulting in death; ~~or (4) (5) three (3) moving violations within a~~
11 one-year period; (6) having been designated a frequent offender pursuant to § 31-27-24; or (7)
12 violation of the terms of a conditional hardship order issued pursuant to chapter 27 of title 31; shall
13 be guilty of a misdemeanor for the first and second offenses and shall be deemed guilty of a felony
14 for the third or subsequent offenses.

15 (b) The division of motor vehicles upon receiving a record of the conviction of any person
16 upon a charge of driving a motor vehicle while the license of the person was suspended, for reasons
17 set forth in this section shall suspend the person's license or deny the person's application for any
18 length of time that it shall deem proper but in no case less than an additional three (3) months. Upon

1 receiving a record of conviction of a second violation of driving a motor vehicle while the license
2 of that person was suspended for reasons set forth in this section, the division of motor vehicles
3 shall suspend the person's license or deny the person's application for any length of time that it
4 shall deem proper but in no case less than an additional six (6) months. Any subsequent conviction
5 shall result in license revocation. Upon receiving a record of the conviction of any person upon a
6 charge of driving after his or her application for a license had been refused, or after his or her license
7 had been revoked or cancelled for reasons set forth in this section, the division of motor vehicles
8 shall not issue a new license for an additional period of one year from and after the date the person
9 would otherwise have been entitled to apply for a new license.

10 (c)(1) Upon a first conviction under this section a mandatory fine of five hundred dollars
11 (\$500) shall be imposed, and if the person was driving after his or her application for a license had
12 been refused, or at a time when his or her license to operate was suspended, revoked, or cancelled
13 for ~~:(i) operating under the influence of a controlled substance or intoxicating liquor, or his or her~~
14 ~~:(ii) refusal to submit to a chemical test; (iii) reckless driving, manslaughter from the operation~~
15 ~~of a motor vehicle, or operation~~ :(iv) operating a motor vehicle so as to endanger, ~~death~~ resulting,
16 in death; (v) three (3) moving violations within a one-year period; (vi) having been designated a
17 frequent offender pursuant to § 31-27-24; or (vii) violation of the terms of a conditional hardship
18 order issued pursuant to chapter 27 of title 31 the person shall be imprisoned for a minimum of ten
19 (10) days.

20 (2) A mandatory fine of five hundred dollars (\$500) for a second conviction under this
21 section within a five (5) year period shall be imposed, and if the person was driving after his or her
22 application for a license had been refused, or at a time when his or her license to operate was
23 suspended, revoked, or cancelled for ~~:(i) operating under the influence of a controlled substance or~~
24 ~~intoxicating liquor or his or her~~ :(ii) refusal to submit to a chemical test; (iii) reckless driving;
25 ~~manslaughter from the operation of a motor vehicle, or operation~~ :(iv) operating a motor vehicle
26 so as to endanger, ~~death~~ resulting in death; (v) three (3) moving violations within a one-year period;
27 (vi) having been designated a frequent offender pursuant to § 31-27-24; or (vii) violation of the
28 terms of a conditional hardship order issued pursuant to chapter 27 of title 31 the person shall be
29 imprisoned for a minimum of six (6) months to one year.

30 (3) For any subsequent conviction within a five (5) year period, a fine of one thousand
31 dollars (\$1,000) shall be imposed and the person may be imprisoned for up to one year or be
32 required to participate in a public service program designated and approved by the court. If the
33 person was driving after his or her application for a license had been refused or at a time when his
34 or her license to operate was suspended, revoked, or cancelled for: (i) operating under the influence

1 of a controlled substance or intoxicating liquor; (ii) ~~his or her~~ refusal to submit to a chemical test;
2 (iii) reckless driving; (iv) ~~manslaughter from the operation of a motor vehicle; or (v)~~ operating a
3 motor vehicle so as to endanger, ~~death~~ resulting in death; (v) three (3) moving violations within a
4 one-year period; (vi) having been designated a frequent offender pursuant to § 31-27-24; or (vii)
5 violation of the terms of a conditional hardship order issued pursuant to chapter 27 of title 31 the
6 person shall be imprisoned for a minimum of one year. Jurisdiction for violations of this section is
7 given to the district court and the court shall have full authority to impose any sentence authorized
8 for violations of this section.

9 (d) No fines, suspensions, treatment, or jail provided for under this section can be
10 suspended.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF
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1 This act would amend the section of law relative to violations for driving after denial,
2 revocation or suspension of a license and would expand the list of offenses for which an unlicensed
3 motorist would be in violation.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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