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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

Introduced By: Representatives Canario, Edwards, Johnston, Hull, and Almeida

Date Introduced: April 15, 2015

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 31-27-2.2 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-27 entitled "Motor  
2 Vehicle Offenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **31-27-2.2. Driving under the influence of liquor or drugs, resulting in death. --** (a)  
4 When the death of any person other than the operator ensues as a proximate result of an injury  
5 received by the operation of any vehicle, the operator of which is under the influence of any  
6 intoxicating liquor, toluene, or any controlled substance as defined in chapter 28 of title 21, or  
7 any combination of these, the person so operating the vehicle shall be guilty of "driving under the  
8 influence of liquor or drugs, resulting in death".

9           (b) Any person charged with the commission of the offense set forth in subsection (a) of  
10 this section shall, upon conviction, be punished as follows:

11           (1) (i) Every person convicted of a first violation shall be punished by imprisonment in  
12 the state prison for not less than five (5) years and ~~for not more than fifteen (15) years~~ may be  
13 imprisoned for life, in any unit of the adult correctional institutions in the discretion of the  
14 sentencing judge, by a fine of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) nor more than ten  
15 thousand dollars (\$10,000) and his or her license to operate a motor vehicle shall be revoked for a  
16 period of five (5) years. The license privilege shall not be reinstated until evidence satisfactory to  
17 the administrator of the division of motor vehicles establishes that no grounds exist which would  
18 authorize the refusal to issue a license, and until the person gives proof of financial responsibility  
19 pursuant to chapter 32 of this title.

1           (ii) In addition, the person convicted may be required to successfully complete alcohol or  
2 drug treatment in a program of their choice, at their own expense, as authorized by a judge of the  
3 superior court, and may successfully complete the program before any license to operate a motor  
4 vehicle is renewed.

5           (2) Every person convicted of a second or subsequent violation within a five (5) year  
6 period in this state or any other state, provided the out-of-state conviction was based on the same  
7 blood-alcohol concentration as set forth in § 31-27-2 shall be punished by imprisonment in the  
8 state prison for not less than ten (10) years and ~~for not more than twenty (20) years~~ may be  
9 imprisoned for life, in any unit of the adult correctional institutions in the discretion of the  
10 sentencing judge, by a fine of not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) nor more than twenty  
11 thousand dollars (\$20,000) and his or her license to operate a motor vehicle shall be revoked for a  
12 period of five (5) years. In addition, the person convicted may be required to successfully  
13 complete alcohol or drug treatment, at their own expense, in a program established by the director  
14 of the department of corrections. The license privilege shall not be reinstated whether the  
15 convictions occurred in this or any other state until evidence satisfactory to the superior court,  
16 following a hearing establishes that no grounds exist which would authorize the refusal to issue a  
17 license, and until the person gives proof of financial responsibility pursuant to chapter 32 of this  
18 title.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would increase the maximum penalties for driving while intoxicated, death  
2 resulting, from five (5) years for a first offense, and from not less than ten (10) years nor more  
3 than twenty (20) years for a second or subsequent offense, to life imprisonment.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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