

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New drunk driving laws go into effect July 1

Drunk driving laws in Kansas will get a lot tougher beginning July 1 as first-time offenders will now be required to use devices on their vehicles to prevent them from driving while intoxicated.

The law, passed by the 2011 Kansas Legislature, requires motorists convicted of driving under the influence to use interlock devices on their vehicles, creates a system to track repeat offenders and strengthens most penalties.

“The main reason to use ignition interlock devices is to save lives by keeping drunk drivers off the roads, but they also provide another important benefit,” said Pete Bodyk, manager of KDOT’s Traffic Safety section. “The offender knows that without the ignition interlock system, they will not be able to drive. Since they are able to drive, they can continue to support their families by driving children to school, driving themselves to work and running necessary errands.”

On May 25, Gov. Sam Brownback signed Senate Bill 6 which partially revamps Kansas DUI laws. Here are the highlights of the new law:

- Failure of a breath test with a result between .08 and .15, on the first occurrence, is a 30-day suspension followed by six months of ignition interlock device if your record is clear and 12 months of interlock if you have a prior open container violation or three or more moving violations.

- Failure of a breath test with a result over .15 the first time, or over .08 on a second or subsequent occurrence is a one-year suspension followed by ignition interlock (length of interlock is dependent on priors).
- Refusal of a breath, blood or urine test is a one-year suspension, followed by ignition interlock requirement (length of interlock is dependent on priors), regardless of how many prior Kansas DUI occurrences a person has.

The new law also creates a central repository that will give law enforcement, prosecutors and judges access to drivers' records, making it easier to track repeat offenders. The Kansas Department of Transportation will fund the repository with \$2.5 million and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation will oversee it.

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For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information,
700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.