



**State of Connecticut**  
**DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice**  
**Joint Committee on Judiciary – March 16, 2009**

- **S.B. No. 732 An Act Concerning the Sentencing of Drunken Drivers**

The Division of Criminal Justice would respectfully recommend the Committee's Joint Favorable Substitute Report for S.B. No. 732, An Act Concerning the Sentencing of Drunken Drivers, to place the proposed change under Section 14-215 (c) of the General Statutes.

The General Assembly has become involved in what seems to be an endless debate over when to require the use of an Ignition Interlock Device, i.e., how many convictions must an individual have before being required to use the device. Adding to the confusion that already exists is yet another suggestion that the suspension required under Section 14-277a and 14-277b be reduced downward if the defendant agrees to the use of an Ignition Interlock Device. Such a change would be totally unworkable and give the message that yet another means is available to avoid the consequences of driving under the influence.

The Division of Criminal Justice would recommend amending Section 14-215 (c) to require that whenever an operator is stopped and his or her license is determined to be under suspension that an Interlock Device must be used upon termination of the suspension. This would avoid the problem of having to coordinate the IID requirements under the DUI law (Section 14-227). Requiring the Ignition Interlock would not depend on the number of DUI convictions and in fact the device could be required for as few as one conviction. The DUI law is already complicated enough; to add the additional language of S.B. No. 732 as now written would only make matters worse.

If the purpose of imposing restrictions like requiring the use of an Ignition Interlock Device is to avoid recidivism and to require all 14-215 (c) violators to be within the scope of the statute, then a clear uniform approach would be accomplished by requiring the devices through Section 14-215 (c).

The Division of Criminal Justice appreciates this opportunity to provide our input to the Committee on this bill. We would be happy to provide any additional information or to answer any questions the Committee might have. Thank you.