



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Committee Bill No. 153

LCO No. 3856

03856SB00153TRA

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE VIOLATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 14-227a of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

4 (a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle while under the
5 influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both. A person commits
6 the offense of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of
7 intoxicating liquor or any drug or both if such person operates a motor
8 vehicle (1) while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug
9 or both, or (2) while such person has an elevated blood alcohol content.
10 For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content"
11 means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is eight-
12 hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, and "motor
13 vehicle" includes a snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle, as those terms
14 are defined in section 14-379, except that if such person is operating a
15 commercial motor vehicle, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a
16 ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is four-hundredths of

17 one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight.

18 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, in any
19 criminal prosecution for violation of subsection (a) of this section,
20 evidence respecting the amount of alcohol or drug in the defendant's
21 blood or urine at the time of the alleged offense, as shown by a
22 chemical analysis of the defendant's breath, blood or urine shall be
23 admissible and competent provided: (1) The defendant was afforded a
24 reasonable opportunity to telephone an attorney prior to the
25 performance of the test and consented to the taking of the test upon
26 which such analysis is made; (2) a true copy of the report of the test
27 result was mailed to or personally delivered to the defendant within
28 twenty-four hours or by the end of the next regular business day, after
29 such result was known; (3) the test was performed by or at the
30 direction of a police officer according to methods and with equipment
31 approved by the Department of Public Safety and was performed in
32 accordance with the regulations adopted under subsection (d) of this
33 section; (4) the device used for such test was checked for accuracy in
34 accordance with the regulations adopted under subsection (d) of this
35 section; (5) an additional chemical test of the same type was performed
36 at least [thirty] ten minutes after the initial test was performed or, if
37 requested by the police officer for reasonable cause, an additional
38 chemical test of a different type was performed to detect the presence
39 of a drug or drugs other than or in addition to alcohol, provided the
40 results of the initial test shall not be inadmissible under this subsection
41 if reasonable efforts were made to have such additional test performed
42 in accordance with the conditions set forth in this subsection and such
43 additional test was not performed or was not performed within a
44 reasonable time, or the results of such additional test are not
45 admissible for failure to meet a condition set forth in this subsection;
46 and (6) evidence is presented that the test was commenced within two
47 hours of operation. In any prosecution under this section it shall be a
48 rebuttable presumption that the results of such chemical analysis
49 establish the ratio of alcohol in the blood of the defendant at the time

50 of the alleged offense, except that if the results of the additional test
51 indicate that the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such defendant is
52 [twelve-hundredths] ten-hundredths of one per cent or less of alcohol,
53 by weight, and is higher than the results of the first test, evidence shall
54 be presented that demonstrates that the test results and the analysis
55 thereof accurately indicate the blood alcohol content at the time of the
56 alleged offense.

57 Sec. 2. Section 14-227b of the general statutes is repealed and the
58 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

59 (a) Any person who operates a motor vehicle in this state shall be
60 deemed to have given such person's consent to a chemical analysis of
61 such person's blood, breath or urine and, if such person is a minor,
62 such person's parent or parents or guardian shall also be deemed to
63 have given their consent.

64 (b) If any such person, having been placed under arrest for
65 operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating
66 liquor or any drug or both, and thereafter, after being apprised of such
67 person's constitutional rights, having been requested to submit to a
68 blood, breath or urine test at the option of the police officer, having
69 been afforded a reasonable opportunity to telephone an attorney prior
70 to the performance of such test and having been informed that such
71 person's license or nonresident operating privilege may be suspended
72 in accordance with the provisions of this section if such person refuses
73 to submit to such test or if such person submits to such test and the
74 results of such test indicate that such person has an elevated blood
75 alcohol content, and that evidence of any such refusal shall be
76 admissible in accordance with subsection (e) of section 14-227a and
77 may be used against such person in any criminal prosecution, refuses
78 to submit to the designated test, the test shall not be given; provided, if
79 the person refuses or is unable to submit to a blood test, the police
80 officer shall designate the breath or urine test as the test to be taken.
81 The police officer shall make a notation upon the records of the police

82 department that such officer informed the person that such person's
83 license or nonresident operating privilege may be suspended if such
84 person refused to submit to such test or if such person submitted to
85 such test and the results of such test indicated that such person had an
86 elevated blood alcohol content.

87 (c) If the person arrested refuses to submit to such test or analysis or
88 submits to such test or analysis, commenced within two hours of the
89 time of operation, and the results of such test or analysis indicate that
90 such person has an elevated blood alcohol content, the police officer,
91 acting on behalf of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, shall
92 immediately revoke and take possession of the motor vehicle
93 operator's license or, if such person is a nonresident, suspend the
94 nonresident operating privilege of such person, for a twenty-four-hour
95 period. The police officer shall prepare a written report of the incident
96 and shall mail the report and a copy of the results of any chemical test
97 or analysis to the Department of Motor Vehicles within three business
98 days. The report shall be made on a form approved by the
99 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and shall be subscribed and sworn to
100 under penalty of false statement as provided in section 53a-157b by the
101 arresting officer. If the person arrested refused to submit to such test or
102 analysis, the report shall be endorsed by a third person who witnessed
103 such refusal. The report shall set forth the grounds for the officer's
104 belief that there was probable cause to arrest such person for operating
105 a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any
106 drug or both and shall state that such person had refused to submit to
107 such test or analysis when requested by such police officer to do so or
108 that such person submitted to such test or analysis, commenced within
109 two hours of the time of operation, and the results of such test or
110 analysis indicated that such person had an elevated blood alcohol
111 content.

112 (d) If the person arrested submits to a blood or urine test at the
113 request of the police officer, and the specimen requires laboratory
114 analysis in order to obtain the test results, the police officer shall not

115 take possession of the motor vehicle operator's license of such person
116 or, except as provided in this subsection, follow the procedures
117 subsequent to taking possession of the operator's license as set forth in
118 subsection (c) of this section. If the test results indicate that such
119 person has an elevated blood alcohol content, the police officer,
120 immediately upon receipt of the test results, shall notify the
121 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and submit to the commissioner the
122 written report required pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

123 (e) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, upon
124 receipt of such report, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may
125 suspend any license or nonresident operating privilege of such person
126 effective as of a date certain, which date shall be not later than thirty
127 days after the date such person received notice of such person's arrest
128 by the police officer. Any person whose license or operating privilege
129 has been suspended in accordance with this subdivision shall
130 automatically be entitled to a hearing before the commissioner to be
131 held prior to the effective date of the suspension. The commissioner
132 shall send a suspension notice to such person informing such person
133 that such person's operator's license or nonresident operating privilege
134 is suspended as of a date certain and that such person is entitled to a
135 hearing prior to the effective date of the suspension and may schedule
136 such hearing by contacting the Department of Motor Vehicles not later
137 than seven days after the date of mailing of such suspension notice.

138 (2) If the person arrested (A) is involved in an accident resulting in a
139 fatality, or (B) has previously had such person's operator's license or
140 nonresident operating privilege suspended under the provisions of
141 section 14-227a during the ten-year period preceding the present
142 arrest, upon receipt of such report, the Commissioner of Motor
143 Vehicles may suspend any license or nonresident operating privilege
144 of such person effective as of the date specified in a notice of such
145 suspension to such person. Any person whose license or operating
146 privilege has been suspended in accordance with this subdivision shall
147 automatically be entitled to a hearing before the commissioner. The

148 commissioner shall send a suspension notice to such person informing
149 such person that such person's operator's license or nonresident
150 operating privilege is suspended as of the date specified in such
151 suspension notice, and that such person is entitled to a hearing and
152 may schedule such hearing by contacting the Department of Motor
153 Vehicles not later than seven days after the date of mailing of such
154 suspension notice. Any suspension issued under this subdivision shall
155 remain in effect until such suspension is affirmed or such license or
156 operating privilege is reinstated in accordance with subsections (f) and
157 (h) of this section.

158 (f) If such person does not contact the department to schedule a
159 hearing, the commissioner shall affirm the suspension contained in the
160 suspension notice for the appropriate period specified in subsection (i)
161 or (j) of this section.

162 (g) If such person contacts the department to schedule a hearing, the
163 department shall assign a date, time and place for the hearing, which
164 date shall be prior to the effective date of the suspension, except that,
165 with respect to a person whose license or nonresident operating
166 privilege is suspended in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection
167 (e) of this section, such hearing shall be scheduled not later than thirty
168 days after such person contacts the department. At the request of such
169 person or the hearing officer and upon a showing of good cause, the
170 commissioner may grant one continuance for a period not to exceed
171 fifteen days. The hearing shall be limited to a determination of the
172 following issues: (1) Did the police officer have probable cause to
173 arrest the person for operating a motor vehicle while under the
174 influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both; (2) was such
175 person placed under arrest; (3) did such person refuse to submit to
176 such test or analysis or did such person submit to such test or analysis,
177 commenced within two hours of the time of operation, and the results
178 of such test or analysis indicated that such person had an elevated
179 blood alcohol content; and (4) was such person operating the motor
180 vehicle. In the hearing, the results of the test or analysis shall be

181 sufficient to indicate the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person at
182 the time of operation, except that if the results of the additional test
183 indicate that the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person is [twelve-
184 hundredths] ten-hundredths of one per cent or less of alcohol, by
185 weight, and is higher than the results of the first test, evidence shall be
186 presented that demonstrates that the test results and analysis thereof
187 accurately indicate the blood alcohol content at the time of operation.
188 The fees of any witness summoned to appear at the hearing shall be
189 the same as provided by the general statutes for witnesses in criminal
190 cases. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 52-
191 143, any subpoena summoning a police officer as a witness shall be
192 served not less than seventy-two hours prior to the designated time of
193 the hearing.

194 (h) If, after such hearing, the commissioner finds on any one of the
195 said issues in the negative, the commissioner shall reinstate such
196 license or operating privilege. If, after such hearing, the commissioner
197 does not find on any one of the said issues in the negative or if such
198 person fails to appear at such hearing, the commissioner shall affirm
199 the suspension contained in the suspension notice for the appropriate
200 period specified in subsection (i) or (j) of this section. The
201 commissioner shall render a decision at the conclusion of such hearing
202 or send a notice of the decision by bulk certified mail to such person
203 not later than thirty days or, if a continuance is granted, not later than
204 forty-five days from the date such person received notice of such
205 person's arrest by the police officer. The notice of such decision sent by
206 certified mail to the address of such person as shown by the records of
207 the commissioner shall be sufficient notice to such person that such
208 person's operator's license or nonresident operating privilege is
209 reinstated or suspended, as the case may be. Unless a continuance of
210 the hearing is granted pursuant to subsection (g) of this section, if the
211 commissioner fails to render a decision within thirty days from the
212 date such person received notice of such person's arrest by the police
213 officer, the commissioner shall reinstate such person's operator's

214 license or nonresident operating privilege, provided notwithstanding
215 such reinstatement the commissioner may render a decision not later
216 than two days thereafter suspending such operator's license or
217 nonresident operating privilege.

218 (i) Except as provided in subsection (j) of this section, the
219 commissioner shall suspend the operator's license or nonresident
220 operating privilege of a person who did not contact the department to
221 schedule a hearing, who failed to appear at a hearing or against whom,
222 after a hearing, the commissioner held pursuant to subsection (h) of
223 this section, as of the effective date contained in the suspension notice
224 or the date the commissioner renders a decision, whichever is later, for
225 a period of: (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this
226 subdivision, ninety days, if such person submitted to a test or analysis
227 and the results of such test or analysis indicated that such person had
228 an elevated blood alcohol content, (B) one hundred twenty days, if
229 such person submitted to a test or analysis and the results of such test
230 or analysis indicated that the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such
231 person was sixteen-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by
232 weight, or (C) six months if such person refused to submit to such test
233 or analysis, (2) if such person has previously had such person's
234 operator's license or nonresident operating privilege suspended under
235 this section, (A) except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this
236 subdivision, nine months if such person submitted to a test or analysis
237 and the results of such test or analysis indicated that such person had
238 an elevated blood alcohol content, (B) ten months if such person
239 submitted to a test or analysis and the results of such test or analysis
240 indicated that the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person was
241 sixteen-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, and
242 (C) one year if such person refused to submit to such test or analysis,
243 and (3) if such person has two or more times previously had such
244 person's operator's license or nonresident operating privilege
245 suspended under this section, (A) except as provided in subparagraph
246 (B) of this subdivision, two years if such person submitted to a test or

247 analysis and the results of such test or analysis indicated that such
248 person had an elevated blood alcohol content, (B) two and one-half
249 years if such person submitted to a test or analysis and the results of
250 such test or analysis indicated that the ratio of alcohol in the blood of
251 such person was sixteen-hundredths of one per cent or more of
252 alcohol, by weight, and (C) three years if such person refused to
253 submit to such test or analysis.

254 (j) The commissioner shall suspend the operator's license or
255 nonresident operating privilege of a person under twenty-one years of
256 age who did not contact the department to schedule a hearing, who
257 failed to appear at a hearing or against whom, after a hearing the
258 commissioner held pursuant to subsection (h) of this section, as of the
259 effective date contained in the suspension notice or the date the
260 commissioner renders a decision whichever is later, for twice the
261 appropriate period of time specified in subsection (i) of this section,
262 except that, in the case of a person who is sixteen or seventeen years of
263 age at the time of the alleged offense, the period of suspension for a
264 first offense shall be one year if such person submitted to a test or
265 analysis and the results of such test or analysis indicated that such
266 person had an elevated blood alcohol content or eighteen months if
267 such person refused to submit to such test or analysis.

268 (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) to (j),
269 inclusive, of this section, any police officer who obtains the results of a
270 chemical analysis of a blood sample taken from an operator of a motor
271 vehicle involved in an accident who suffered or allegedly suffered
272 physical injury in such accident shall notify the Commissioner of
273 Motor Vehicles and submit to the commissioner a written report if
274 such results indicate that such person had an elevated blood alcohol
275 content, and if such person was arrested for violation of section
276 14-227a in connection with such accident. The report shall be made on
277 a form approved by the commissioner containing such information as
278 the commissioner prescribes, and shall be subscribed and sworn to
279 under penalty of false statement, as provided in section 53a-157b, by

280 the police officer. The commissioner may, after notice and an
281 opportunity for hearing, which shall be conducted in accordance with
282 chapter 54, suspend the motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident
283 operating privilege of such person for the appropriate period specified
284 in subsection (i) or (j) of this section. Each hearing conducted under
285 this subsection shall be limited to a determination of the following
286 issues: (1) Whether the police officer had probable cause to arrest the
287 person for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of
288 intoxicating liquor or drug or both; (2) whether such person was
289 placed under arrest; (3) whether such person was operating the motor
290 vehicle; (4) whether the results of the analysis of the blood of such
291 person indicate that such person had an elevated blood alcohol
292 content; and (5) whether the blood sample was obtained in accordance
293 with conditions for admissibility and competence as evidence as set
294 forth in subsection (j) of section 14-227a. If, after such hearing, the
295 commissioner finds on any one of the said issues in the negative, the
296 commissioner shall not impose a suspension. The fees of any witness
297 summoned to appear at the hearing shall be the same as provided by
298 the general statutes for witnesses in criminal cases, as provided in
299 section 52-260.

300 (l) The provisions of this section shall apply with the same effect to
301 the refusal by any person to submit to an additional chemical test as
302 provided in subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 14-227a.

303 (m) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person
304 whose physical condition is such that, according to competent medical
305 advice, such test would be inadvisable.

306 (n) The state shall pay the reasonable charges of any physician who,
307 at the request of a municipal police department, takes a blood sample
308 for purposes of a test under the provisions of this section.

309 (o) For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content"
310 means (1) a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is eight-

311 hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, (2) if such
312 person is operating a commercial motor vehicle, a ratio of alcohol in
313 the blood of such person that is four-hundredths of one per cent or
314 more of alcohol, by weight, or [(2)] (3) if such person is under twenty-
315 one years of age, a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is
316 two-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight.

317 (p) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations, in
318 accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this
319 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2009	14-227a(a) and (b)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2009	14-227b

Statement of Purpose:

To improve Administrative Per Se procedures, and to clarify provisions concerning "elevated alcohol content".

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. DEFRONZO, 6th Dist.; SEN. STILLMAN, 20th Dist.
REP. KLARIDES, 114th Dist.; REP. SCRIBNER, 107th Dist.

S.B. 153