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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Committee On Transportation
Public Hearing
March 11, 2009

Testimony on S.B. 151
An Act Concerning The Use of Ignition Interlock Devices In Motor Vehicles

Senators DeFronzo, Boucher; Representatives Guerrero, Scribner; and members of the Transportation Committee:

As a co-sponsor of this bill along with Senator DeFronzo and Representative Scribner, I respectfully request the committee's support of S.B. 51, *An Act Concerning The Use of Ignition Interlock Devices In Motor Vehicles*. This bill amends the current statutes pertaining to first time convictions for drunk driving. Those convicted of a first offense will have their operating license suspended for a full 18 months, or could alternatively have their license suspended for six months followed by one year with an installed ignition interlock device in their automobile.

Under current law, first time convictions do not require interlock ignition devices and license suspension is mandatory for one year. The provisions for second, third and subsequent convictions remain the same.

The bill also requires that a first-time convicted offender submit evidence to DMV that they are participating in an alcohol treatment program before having their license reinstated by DMV. Currently for second and third convictions, they must have satisfactorily completed alcohol treatment programs.

I think these amendments go a long way to strengthen our drunk driving laws, which will hopefully provide a stronger deterrent to drunk driving throughout our state.

I thank all the members of the committee for seriously considering and supporting this proposal, and welcome any questions or concerns you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Themis'.

Themis Klarides
Deputy Republican Leader