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Discussion Points

Laws: (In reference to S.B. No. 965)

Currently, CT mandates that an Ignition Interlock Device (IID) be administered for alcohol related offenses such as repeated DUIs, vehicular assault offenders, and vehicular manslaughter offenders.

This bill motions for an act to be signed into law stating that a court may appoint an IID to any first time drunken driving offender. A law such as this does sound very proactive in relation to other states, however, if we are able to set a new standard in DUI conviction, less people will be tempted to get behind the wheel after consuming alcohol.

Currently 24 months is the mandated term for the IID. I believe this would be appropriate for a first time offender with longer terms (36-60 mos.) for more serious offenders who commit Vehicular Assault and Vehicular Manslaughter.

The device must be paid for by the offender as well as the fees regarding the application for the device. Currently in youth circles, much of what I hear of people getting DUI's are about how they can't drive for a few months and how they have to do some "stupid" classes. I witness all the time how ineffective the alcohol laws are in CT regarding DUI's. If the punishments get stricter, the younger population will definitely be influenced in the decisions they make.

Laws: (in reference to S.B. No. 1031 & 1032)

Contradiction in the law regarding felonies- 2nd Degree Vehicular Manslaughter while intoxicated is classified as a Class "C" criminal felony.

Some other Class "C" felonies that potentially carry the same or harsher punishment or prison sentence than 2nd Veh. Mans. -

- Forgery in the first degree
- Computer crime in the second degree
- Money laundering in the second degree

All of these other felonies under the "C" classification DO NOT involve the death of an innocent human being.

If Vehicular Manslaughter was raised to a Class B felony (0-20 years), it is my belief offenders would eventually receive stricter and harsher sentences therefore setting a precedent for future offenders. This in turn would decrease the overall amount of offenders committing this type of crime.

This is especially important because of how poorly the state of CT ranks among traffic fatalities involving alcohol. 2nd WORSE in the entire nation. State Representative Tom Reynolds has reported that 44% of all traffic fatalities within the State of CT involve alcohol. This is obviously directly related to the leniency regarding CT's alcohol laws.