AN ACT REDUCING THE BLOOD ALCOHOL LIMITS FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING AND BOATING.

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

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 14-227a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective January 2, 2025):

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both. A person commits the offense of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both if such person operates a motor vehicle (1) while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both, or (2) while such person has an elevated blood alcohol content. For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is [eight-hundredths] five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, except that if such person is operating a commercial motor vehicle, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is four-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, and
"motor vehicle" includes a snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle, as those terms are defined in section 14-379. For purposes of this section, section 14-227b, as amended by this act, and section 14-227c, (A) "advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement" means a program developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Technical Advisory Panel, which focuses on impaired driving enforcement education for police officers, or any successor to such program; (B) "drug influence evaluation" means an evaluation developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the International Association of Chiefs of Police that is conducted by a drug recognition expert to determine the level of a person's impairment from the use of drugs and the drug category causing such impairment; (C) "drug recognition expert" means a person certified by the International Association of Chiefs of Police as having met all requirements of the International Drug Evaluation and Classification Program; and (D) "nontestimonial portion of a drug influence evaluation" means a drug influence evaluation conducted by a drug recognition expert that does not include a verbal interview with the subject.

Sec. 2. Subsection (n) of section 14-227b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective January 2, 2025):

(n) For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content" means (1) a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is [eight-hundredths] five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, (2) if such person is operating a commercial motor vehicle, a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is four-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, or (3) if such person is less than twenty-one years of age, a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is two-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight.

Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 14-227m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective January
(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle in which a child under eighteen years of age is a passenger while such person (1) is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both, or (2) has an elevated blood alcohol content. For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is \( \frac{8}{5} \) of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, except that if such person is operating a commercial motor vehicle, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is four-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol by weight; and "motor vehicle" includes a snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle, as those terms are defined in section 14-379.

Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 14-227n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective January 2, 2025):

(a) (1) No person shall operate a school bus, student transportation vehicle or other motor vehicle specially designated for carrying children while such person (A) is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both, or (B) has an elevated blood alcohol content.

(2) No person shall operate a school bus, student transportation vehicle or other motor vehicle specially designated for carrying children in which a child under eighteen years of age is a passenger while such person (A) is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both, or (B) has an elevated blood alcohol content.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "motor vehicle specially designated for carrying children" means any motor vehicle, except for a registered school bus or student transportation vehicle as defined in section 14-212, that is designated or used by a person, firm or
corporation for the transportation of children to or from any program or
activity organized primarily for persons under the age of eighteen years,
with or without charge to the individual being transported, but does not
include a passenger motor vehicle normally used for personal, family or
household purposes that is operated by a person without a public
passenger endorsement; and "elevated blood alcohol content" means a
ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is \[\text{eight-hundredth} \text{s}\]
five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, except
that if such person is operating a commercial motor vehicle, "elevated
blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such
person that is four-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by
weight, and if such person is under twenty-one years of age, "elevated
blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such
person that is two-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by
weight.

Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 15-133 of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective January
2, 2025):

(d) No person shall operate a vessel: (1) While under the influence of
intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both, or (2) while such person has an
elevated blood alcohol content. For the purposes of this section and
sections 15-140l and 15-140n, "elevated blood alcohol content" means:
(A) A ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is \[\text{eight-}
hundredth} \text{s}\] five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by
weight, or (B) if such person is under twenty-one years of age, a ratio of
alcohol in the blood of such person that is two-hundredths of one per
cent or more of alcohol, by weight. For the purposes of this section and
sections 15-132a, 15-140l, 15-140n, 15-140o and 15-140q, as amended by
this act, "operate" means that the vessel is underway or aground and not
moored, anchored or docked.

Sec. 6. Subdivision (4) of subsection (g) of section 15-140q of the
general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
thereof (Effective January 2, 2025):
(4) At a hearing held under this subsection, the results of the test, if administered, shall be sufficient to indicate the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person at the time of operation, except that if the results of an additional test, administered pursuant to section 15-140r, indicate that the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person is [eight-hundredths] five-hundredths of one per cent or less of alcohol, by weight, and is higher than the results of the first test, evidence shall be presented that demonstrates that the test results and analysis thereof accurately indicate the blood alcohol content at the time of operation. The fees of any witness summoned to appear at a hearing under this subsection shall be the same as provided in section 52-260.

Sec. 7. Subsection (n) of section 15-140q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective January 2, 2025):

(n) For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content" means: (1) A ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is [eight-hundredths] five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, or (2) if such person is under twenty-one years of age, a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is two-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight.

Sec. 8. Section 38a-498c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective January 2, 2025):

No individual health insurance policy providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 delivered, issued for delivery, amended, renewed or continued in this state shall deny coverage for health care services rendered to treat any injury sustained by any person when such injury is alleged to have occurred or occurs under circumstances in which (1) such person has an elevated blood alcohol content, or (2) such person has sustained such injury while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both. For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is [eight-
hundredths] five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight.

Sec. 9. Section 38a-525c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective January 2, 2025):

No group health insurance policy providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 delivered, issued for delivery, amended, renewed or continued in this state shall deny coverage for health care services rendered to treat any injury sustained by any person when such injury is alleged to have occurred or occurs under circumstances in which (1) such person has an elevated blood alcohol content, or (2) such person has sustained such injury while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both. For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is [eight-hundredths] five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight.

| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Section 1 | January 2, 2025 | 14-227a(a) |
| Sec. 2 | January 2, 2025 | 14-227b(n) |
| Sec. 3 | January 2, 2025 | 14-227m(a) |
| Sec. 4 | January 2, 2025 | 14-227n(a) |
| Sec. 5 | January 2, 2025 | 15-133(d) |
| Sec. 6 | January 2, 2025 | 15-140q(g)(4) |
| Sec. 7 | January 2, 2025 | 15-140q(n) |
| Sec. 8 | January 2, 2025 | 38a-498c |
| Sec. 9 | January 2, 2025 | 38a-525c |

Statement of Purpose:
To lower the blood alcohol content for driving and boating under the influence from eight-hundredths to five-hundredths of one per cent of alcohol, by weight.

[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.]