



NORTH CAROLINA Department of Transportation



Modernizing NC's Ignition Interlock Laws

*Mark Ezzell, Director
N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program*

April 26, 2022

ALL Fatalities

North Carolina Fatality Trends Since 2002



Ignition Interlock Working Group

An ignition interlock device is connected to a vehicle's ignition system and requires an individual to breathe into the equipment before starting the vehicle. The vehicle will not start if the individual's breath alcohol concentration is outside the acceptable range.

. A GHSP-led working group worked to expand use of this life saving technique-

Coalition Members included Mothers Against Drunk Driving, NC Conference of District Attorneys, NC Advocates for Justice , NC Division of Motor Vehicles, Division of Public Health, NC Department of Justice, Administrative Office of the Courts, NHTSA, Coalition of Ignition Interlock Manufacturers, Responsibility.org and Distilled Spirits Council- meetings facilitated by the UNC School of Government.

Session Law 2021-182 Comparison

Old Law	New Law (SL 2021-182)
Requires 45-day waiting period following final conviction before starting limited driving privileges	Removes 45 day waiting period if an ignition interlock is installed (effective Dec. 1, 2021).
Ignition interlock restriction level set at between 0.0 and 0.4	Creates .02 alcohol restriction standard under GS 20-17.8. This is the national standard and is effective against false positives.
Required individuals with an ignition interlock device to install it on all registered vehicles currently registered to the individual	Allows an individual who owns multiple vehicles to designate certain vehicles for operation with an ignition interlock system.
Time and place restrictions existed on limited driving privilege	Time and place restrictions on limited driving privilege is removed if person has ignition interlock.
No indigent fund for ignition interlock	Establishes an indigent fund created and paid for by the ignition interlock companies, not the government.

Says this committee will study ignition interlock expansion, whether limited driving privileges should be granted by DMV instead of the courts, and whether alternative sentencing options for implied-consent offenses should be authorized to incentivize the use of ignition interlock.

Implementation Updates

- Limited Driving privilege applications Jan-Nov. 30th 2021- **1788**
- Limited driving privilege applications since Dec. 1st: **975**
- Indigent Review is on schedule to be completed (needs Administrative Rule through OAH public hearing has been held- no public comments)
- DMV is working with ignition interlock service providers on the procedures to have the installation fee and service fees adjusted for indigent clients that are required to have the ignition interlock device.
- DMV is making procedural and software changes to allow examiners to easily change ignition interlock requirements to only one car
- AOC forms for ignition interlock limited privilege changes as outline in this law are in place for June 1st implementation.

What's left to be done?

Status of Ignition Interlock Laws

