

Ignition Interlocks & Traffic Safety

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Transportation Infrastructure Subcommittee

Rep. Art De La Cruz, Chair
Sen. Antonio “Moe” Maestas, Vice Chair

Presented by:
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Problem: A *Driving on a revoked license* conviction is almost always appealed. These cases are de novo appeals and the defendant gets a brand new trial in District Court . This drains resources and the defendant may avoid accountability.

Solution: Amend **§34-8A-6 NMSA 1978, Metropolitan Court Rules**. Make *Driving on a revoked license* an "on record" case in Metropolitan Court. This would eliminate new trials as all appeals would go to the NM Court of Appeals.

Problem: There is no guarantee the convicted driver ever gets an ignition interlock device.

Solution: Amend **§66-5-39.1(C) NMSA 1978. Driving while license revoked penalties.** Make interlock installation mandatory penalty upon conviction; as well as obtaining an interlock driver's license.

Problem: When a person's driver's license will soon be revoked, they remain ineligible to get an interlock license.

Solution: Amend **§66-5-503 NMSA. Ignition interlock license - requirements**. Allow all drivers to be eligible to obtain an interlock license when they are soon to be revoked; or at any time.

Problem: Ignition interlock licenses are only valid for one year and therefore must be renewed and purchased each and every year.

Solution: Amend **§66-5-503 NMSA. Ignition interlock license - requirements**. Allow an ignition interlock license to be valid for 4 or 8 years; similar to other driver's licenses.

Problem: A person may not be able to install an interlock device or have an interlock device removed without a court order.

Solution: Amend **§66-5-503 NMSA. Ignition interlock license requirements.** Explicitly allow for the installation or removal of an ignition interlock devices without a court order. At the consumer's discretion.

Problem: The *interlock device fund* has been underutilized as has balance at the end of FY27 of \$3.1 million. There are many drivers, whose licenses are revoked, that would benefit from ignition interlocks installed in their vehicles.

Solution: Amend **§66-8-102.3 NMSA. Imposing a fee - interlock device fund.** Increase subsidies from \$50 to \$100 for installation and from \$30 to \$80 monthly fees. Cut the red tape for proof of eligibility for the fund.

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