



Assembly Bill 1830

Save Lives with Every Start: Ignition Interlock Devices

SUMMARY

AB 1830 amends sections of the Vehicle Code to remove the sunset date on California’s existing interlock ignition device (“IID”) program for individuals with two or more driving under the influence (“DUI”) convictions and expands the program to require IIDs for *all* individuals convicted of a DUI.

BACKGROUND

Every day, drunk drivers kill 37 people in the United States – one life lost every 39 minutes – and California is at the epicenter of the crisis. Eight of the top ten cities with the worst DUI rates in the nation are right here in California: Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Jose, Bakersfield, Fresno, San Diego, Long Beach, and Oakland.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), between 2019 and 2023, drunk driving fatalities in California increased by 40%, far outpacing the national average of 22%. These aren’t just statistics. These numbers represent lives lost, families devastated, and communities impacted. These deaths are entirely preventable.

Ignition interlock devices (IIDs) are one tool to prevent individuals who have consumed alcohol from operating a vehicle, and according to the Center for Disease Control, reduce repeat DUI offenses by 70%. These cell-phone-sized devices are wired to a vehicle’s ignition that measure the driver’s breath-alcohol content (BAC) before allowing the car to start.

More than 34 states have laws requiring all individuals convicted of driving under the influence, including first-time offenders, to install an IID. Under current California law, only individuals with two-or-more DUI convictions are required to install an IID, as a condition of regaining a license.

A 2016, robust national study by the University of Pennsylvania concluded that requiring ignition interlocks for all drunk-driving convictions was associated with 15% fewer alcohol-involved crash deaths. In comparison,

when given the sanction of a suspended license, the study found that more than half of convicted impaired driving offenders continue to drive. In 2016, the California Department of Motor Vehicles found that ignition interlocks are 74% more effective in reducing DUI recidivism than license suspension, alone, for first-time offenders during the first six months following a conviction.

NEED FOR THE BILL

In 2023 alone, IIDs prevented more than 30,500 attempts to drive drunk in California. Even with those prevented starts, **the state still experienced an increase in drunk driving fatalities between 2022 (31%) and 2023 (33%).**

Despite, California’s drunk driving epidemic, the current IID program only applies to multiple DUI offenders. This proven technology is necessary to stop ALL repeat offenders. Without strengthening this law, we know more deaths and serious injuries will occur when we have the tools to prevent them.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES

AB 1830 does three things:

1. Removes the sunset date on the existing program.
2. Aligns California’s laws with the 34 other states that require IID installation for all individuals convicted of driving under the influence; *and*,
3. **Codifies and Increases California’s existing interlock ignition device financial assistance program available to offenders** – the most generous program in the country (up to 90% of the cost, based on income):

| % of Federal Poverty Level | Cost per Day |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>125% or below</i> | < \$0.30 |
| <i>126 - 225%</i> | < \$0.70 |
| <i>226% - 325% or CalFresh</i> | < \$1.35 |
| <i>326 – 425%</i> | < \$2.75 |

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