

ASSEMBLY, No. 3719

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Increases penalties for underage drivers who have consumed alcohol.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning certain motor vehicle operators and amending
2 P.L.1992, c.189.

3

4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1992, c.189 (C.39:4-50.14) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. Any person under the legal age to purchase alcoholic
10 beverages who operates a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol
11 concentration of 0.01% or more, but less than 0.08%, by weight of
12 alcohol in his blood, shall forfeit his right to operate a motor vehicle
13 over the highways of this State or shall be prohibited from
14 obtaining a license to operate a motor vehicle in this State for a
15 period of **[not less than 30 or more than 90]** 180 days beginning on
16 the date he becomes eligible to obtain a license or on the day of
17 conviction, whichever is later, and shall perform community service
18 for a period of **[not less than 15 or more than]** 30 days.

19 In addition, the person shall satisfy the program and fee
20 requirements of an Intoxicated Driver Resource Center or
21 participate in a program of alcohol education and highway safety as
22 prescribed by the chief administrator. Following the successful
23 completion of the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center program, the
24 person shall satisfy the requirements of a supplemental alcohol
25 intervention and treatment program. The program, which shall be
26 developed by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
27 in consultation with the Motor Vehicle Commission and the county
28 Boards of Health, shall consist of at least 16 classroom hours.

29 The penalties provided under the provisions of this section shall
30 be in addition to the penalties which the court may impose under
31 N.J.S.2C:33-15, R.S.33:1-81, R.S.39:4-50 or any other law.
32 (cf: P.L.2003, c.314, s.3)

33

34 2. This act shall take effect the first day of the second month
35 following enactment.

36

37 STATEMENT

38

39 This bill would increase the penalties for underage motor vehicle
40 operators who have consumed alcohol.

41 Under current law, drivers under the age of 21 who are found to
42 have consumed an alcoholic beverage, but who are not legally
43 drunk and therefore not prosecuted under the State's drunk driving
44 law, are penalized by a license suspension of 30 to 90 days,
45 community service for not less than 15 or more than 30 days and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

A3719 DANCER

3

1 are required to fulfill the program and fee requirements of an
2 Intoxicated Driver Resource Center program.

3 This bill would increase those penalties to a mandatory 180 day
4 license suspension and a mandatory 30 days of community service.
5 In addition, the bill would require violators to satisfy the
6 requirements of a supplemental alcohol treatment program. The
7 program, which is to be developed by the Division of Mental Health
8 and Addiction Services in consultation with the Motor Vehicle
9 Commission and the various county Boards of Health, is to consist
10 of at least 16 classroom hours.