

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: SB 296

INTRODUCER: Senator DiCeglie

SUBJECT: Lawful Breath Test for Alcohol

DATE: February 10, 2023

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jones	Vickers	TR	Pre-meeting
2.			CJ	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 296 requires a person arrested for driving under the influence who refuses to submit to a lawful breath test to install an ignition interlock device, at his or her expense, on all vehicles he or she individually or jointly leases or owns and routinely operates. The person must be told that refusal of a lawful breath test will require mandatory placement of an ignition interlock device, and the device must be installed for the duration of the license suspension for failing to submit to a lawful breath test, which is one year for a first refusal and 18 months for a subsequent refusal.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.

II. Present Situation:

Section 316.1932, F.S., provides that any person who accepts the privilege of operating a motor vehicle within this state is deemed to have given consent to submit to an approved breath test to determine the alcohol content of his or her breath, also referred to as the “implied consent” law. The breath test must be incidental to a lawful arrest and administered at the request of a law enforcement officer who has a reasonable belief such person was driving or in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcoholic beverages.¹

Every state in the U.S. has implied consent laws, which are a tool used by law enforcement to access evidence showing a person was illegally impaired while operating a motor vehicle. A person who refuses to submit to a lawful breath test can be subject to administrative and criminal penalties, but penalties vary among the states.²

¹ Section 316.1932(1)(a)1.a., F.S.

² In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Birchfield v. North Dakota* held that the Fourth Amendment permits warrantless breath tests incident to arrest, and criminalizing the refusal to submit to a breath test is designed to serve the government’s interest in deterring drunk driving. However, warrants for blood tests are required unless there are exigent circumstances.

Refusal to Submit to a Lawful Breath Test

In Florida, failure to submit to a lawful breath test results in an administrative suspension of the person’s driving privilege for one year for a first refusal or 18 months for a subsequent refusal.³ Additionally, a person who refuses to submit to a breath test for a subsequent time commits a first-degree misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and \$1,000 fine.⁴

Comparatively, a first conviction of driving under the influence (DUI) can result in a fine of at least \$500, 50 hours of community service, imprisonment of no more than six months, up to one year of probation, a court order to install an ignition interlock device for at least six continuous months, and completion of an authorized substance abuse course.⁵

The table below provides data on DUI breath testing refusal rates in Florida from 2018 to 2022.⁶ Previous studies found the nationwide average rate for testing refusal at 24 percent.⁷

Year	Total Refusals	DUI UTCs	Refusal Rate	Crash-related Refusals
2018	15,093	43,715	34.53%	4,051
2019	15,506	44,890	34.54%	4,082
2020	12,924	37,310	34.64%	3,674
2021	15,182	43,787	34.67%	4,226
2022*	15,199	42,947	35.39%	4,100
*2022 is preliminary				

Restricted Driver Licenses

A person whose driving privilege is suspended for refusing a lawful breath test may apply for restricted driving privileges through DHSMV’s Bureau of Administrative Review after at least 90 days have elapsed from the date of the suspension.⁸ However, this privilege may not be granted to a person whose license has been suspended two or more times for testing refusal, or who refused testing following two or more DUI convictions.¹⁰

Section 322.271(1)(c), F.S., defines a “business purposes only” restricted driving privilege as limited to driving necessary to maintain livelihood, including driving to and from work, necessary on-the-job driving, driving for educational purposes, and driving for church and medical purposes. An “employment purposes only” restricted driving privilege is limited to driving to and from work and necessary on-the-job driving.

³ Section 322.2616(2)(b)1.a., F.S.

⁴ Sections 316.1939(1), F.S.

⁵ Section 316.193, F.S.

⁶ Email from Jennifer Langston, Chief of Staff, DHSMV, *FW: SB 296 - Breath Test Refusal Rate*, (February 6, 2023).

⁷ Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, *BAC Test Refusal Penalties*, (2016), <https://www.responsibility.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/BAC-Test-Refusal-Penalties-2016-2.pdf> (last visited February 6, 2023).

⁸ Section 322.2615(10)(a), F.S.

⁹ DHSMV, *Application for Administrative Hearing*, Form HSMV 78306 (Rev. 1/2022), available at <https://www.flhsmv.gov/pdf/forms/78306.pdf> (last visited January 31, 2023).

¹⁰ Section 322.271(2)(a), F.S.

Ignition Interlock Devices

An ignition interlock device is a breath alcohol analyzer connected to a motor vehicle’s ignition, which requires a breath sample to operate the motor vehicle. Section 316.1937, F.S., requires such devices to prohibit the vehicle from starting if the operator’s blood alcohol level is in excess of 0.025 percent or other court-specified level.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) contracts with vendors to provide ignition interlock devices in Florida. The devices must meet or exceed the current standards of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).¹¹ The DHSMV oversees and monitors the ignition interlock devices.¹²

The table below summarizes when an ignition interlock device is required in Florida.¹³

DUI Conviction	Ignition Interlock Device Required
1st conviction	If court orders for at least 6 continuous months
1st conviction if blood-alcohol level is \geq 0.15, or minor in car	Mandatory for at least 6 continuous months
2nd conviction	Mandatory for at least 1 year
2nd conviction if blood-alcohol level is \geq 0.15, or minor in car	Mandatory for at least 2 continuous years
3rd conviction	Mandatory for at least 2 years

The Florida Legislature’s Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) conducted a study researching ignition interlock devices and DUI offense recidivism rates. The research showed that ignition interlock devices, while installed, were more effective at reducing re-arrest rates for alcohol-impaired driving when compared to other sanctions, such as license suspensions.¹⁴ Similarly, NHTSA reviewed 15 studies on ignition interlock device effectiveness and found alcohol-impaired driving recidivism rates were 75 percent lower for drivers with ignition interlock devices installed. However, the difference in recidivism rates largely disappeared once the device was removed.¹⁵

DHSMV indicates the compliance rate for individuals *eligible* to have an ignition interlock device installed is almost 98 percent. Forty-six percent of individuals required to have an ignition interlock device installed are not eligible until other sanctions on their record are cleared to allow driving privilege eligibility.¹⁶ Section 316.193, F.S., providing DUI penalties, requires

¹¹ Section 316.1938, F.S.

¹² Sections 316.1938 and 316.193(11), F.S.

¹³ Section 316.193, F.S.

¹⁴ OPPAGA, *Ignition Interlock Devices and DUI Recidivism Rates*, Report No. 14-14, (December 2014), <https://oppaga.fl.gov/Documents/Reports/14-14.pdf> (last visited February 3, 2023).

¹⁵ NHTSA, *A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide for State Highway Safety Offices*, 10th Edition (2020), <https://www.nhtsa.gov/book/countermeasures/deterrence/42-alcohol-ignition-interlocks> (last visited January 24, 2023).

¹⁶ Email from Kevin Jacobs, Legislative Affairs Director, DHSMV, *RE: IID & DUI Recidivism Rates*, (October 25, 2022).

placement of the ignition interlock device “when the convicted person qualifies for a permanent or restricted license.” Additionally, the DHSMV indicates that inability to afford the cost associated with the ignition interlock device is the most persuasive barrier to required installation.¹⁷

According to a study distributed by NHTSA, 27 states mandate ignition interlock program participation upon test refusal.¹⁸ The requirements of the programs vary by state. States may require ignition interlock device placement as a penalty for testing refusal, incident to arrest for DUI, or to be granted restricted driving privileges following an administrative license suspension for refusing to submit to the breath test.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 316.1939 F.S., requiring a person arrested for driving under the influence who refuses to submit to a lawful breath test to install a DHSMV-approved ignition interlock device, at his or her expense, on all vehicles he or she individually or jointly leases or owns and routinely operates. The ignition interlock device must be installed for the duration of the license suspension for failing to submit to a lawful breath test, which is one year for a first refusal and 18 months for a subsequent refusal.

The bill also amends s. 316.1932, F.S., requiring a person be told that refusing to submit to the lawful breath test will result in the mandatory placement of an ignition interlock device for the duration of the license suspension.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

¹⁷ DHSMV, *Ignition Interlock Program*, <https://www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/education-courses/dui-and-iid/ignition-interlock-program/> (last visited February 6, 2023). *See also* V. Fiscal Impact Statement.

¹⁸ Barrett, H., Robertson, R.D., & Vanlaar, W. G. M., *State of the Practice of State Alcohol Ignition Interlock Programs* Report No. DOT HS 813 394, (January 2023), <https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/66102> (last visited January 27, 2023).

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None Identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Individuals required to install an ignition interlock device are responsible for costs of the device. Costs vary by vendor, but can range from \$70 to \$170 for installation and \$50 to \$120 per month for device leasing and monitoring.¹⁹

C. Government Sector Impact:

DHSMV receives \$12 for each ignition interlock installation, which is deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund for operation of the Ignition Interlock Device Program.²⁰

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

Section 316.193, F.S., provides that when an ignition interlock device is required following a DUI conviction, placement of the device is required once the convicted person qualifies for a permanent or restricted driver license. The bill may need to clarify the timeframe of the required placement of the device and whether placement relates to reinstatement of driving privileges.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 316.1932 and 316.1939.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

¹⁹ LifeSaver Ignition Interlock, *Ignition Interlock Costs*, <https://www.lifesaver.com/ignition-interlock-cost/> (last visited February 6, 2023).

²⁰ Section 322.2715(5), F.S.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
