

HB 1702 -- Driving While Intoxicated

Sponsor: Stevenson

This bill changes the laws regarding driving while intoxicated. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Allows a court to issue a limited driving privilege to a driver who is otherwise ineligible following a driving while intoxicated charge if he or she has completed the first 45 days of the license suspension, revocation, or denial period; completed a court-approved drug or DWI treatment program; provided documentation to the Department of Revenue that his or her vehicle has been equipped with an ignition interlock device; and filed proof of financial responsibility with the department. Individuals with a commercial driver's license are not eligible for this limited driving privilege;

(2) Allows any circuit court to establish a DWI docket to dispose of cases that stem from alcohol use;

(3) Prohibits courts from suspending the imposition of sentence of a persistent offender of intoxication-related traffic offenses unless the offender is actively participating or has successfully completed a substance abuse treatment program under Section 478.001, RSMo;

(4) Extends the minimum jail sentence for a persistent offender from 10 to 30 days and allows the offender to be eligible for parole or probation if he or she has entered a substance abuse treatment program;

(5) Allows an aggravated offender to be eligible for parole or probation if he or she enters a substance abuse treatment program in lieu of the 60 days' imprisonment; and

(6) Allows a chronic offender to be eligible for parole or probation if he or she enters a substance abuse treatment program.