

**171.306 IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE PROGRAM.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) As used in this section, the terms in this subdivision have the meanings given them.

(b) "Ignition interlock device" or "device" means equipment that is designed to measure breath alcohol concentration and to prevent a motor vehicle's ignition from being started by a person whose breath alcohol concentration measures 0.02 or higher on the equipment.

(c) "Program participant" means a person whose driver's license has been revoked, canceled, or denied under section 169A.52, 169A.54, or 171.04, subdivision 1, clause (10), and who has qualified to take part in the ignition interlock program under this section.

(d) "Qualified prior impaired driving incident" has the meaning given in section 169A.03, subdivision 22.

Subd. 2. **Performance standards; certification; manufacturer requirements.** The commissioner shall establish performance standards and a process for certifying devices used in the ignition interlock program. The manufacturer of a device must apply annually for certification of the device by submitting the form prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner shall require manufacturers of certified devices to:

(1) provide device installation, servicing, and monitoring to indigent program participants at a discounted rate, according to the standards established by the commissioner; and

(2) include in an ignition interlock device contract a provision that a program participant who voluntarily terminates participation in the program is only liable for servicing and monitoring costs incurred during the time the device is installed on the motor vehicle, regardless of whether the term of the contract has expired.

Subd. 3. **Program requirements.** (a) The commissioner shall establish guidelines for participation in the ignition interlock program. A person who seeks to participate in the program shall sign a written acknowledgment that the person has received, reviewed, and agreed to abide by the program guidelines.

(b) The commissioner must enter a notation on a person's driving record to indicate that the person is a program participant.

(c) A person under the age of 18 years is not eligible to be a program participant.

(d) A program participant shall pay costs associated with an ignition interlock device on every motor vehicle that the participant operates or intends to operate.

(e) A program participant shall participate in any treatment recommended in a chemical use assessment report.

(f) A program participant shall bring the device-equipped motor vehicle or vehicles operated by the program participant to an approved service provider for device calibration and servicing according to the schedule established by the commissioner and as indicated by the ignition interlock device.

Subd. 4. **Issuance of restricted license.** (a) The commissioner shall issue a class D driver's license, subject to the applicable limitations and restrictions of this section, to a program participant who meets the requirements of this section and the program guidelines. The

commissioner shall not issue a license unless the program participant has provided satisfactory proof that:

(1) a certified ignition interlock device has been installed on the participant's motor vehicle at an installation service center designated by the device's manufacturer; and

(2) the participant has insurance coverage on the vehicle equipped with the ignition interlock device. The commissioner shall require the participant to present an insurance identification card, policy, or written statement as proof of insurance coverage, and may require the insurance identification card provided be certified by the insurance company to be noncancelable for a period not to exceed 12 months.

(b) A license issued under authority of this section must contain a restriction prohibiting the program participant from driving, operating, or being in physical control of any motor vehicle not equipped with a functioning ignition interlock device certified by the commissioner. A participant may drive an employer-owned vehicle not equipped with an interlock device while in the normal course and scope of employment duties pursuant to the program guidelines established by the commissioner and with the employer's written consent.

(c) A program participant whose driver's license has been revoked under section 169A.52, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (1), (2), or (3), or subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clause (1), (2), or (3), or section 169A.54, subdivision 1, clause (1), (2), (3), or (4), may apply for conditional reinstatement of the driver's license, subject to the ignition interlock restriction.

(d) A program participant whose driver's license has been revoked, canceled, or denied under section 169A.52, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (4), (5), or (6), or subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clause (4), (5), or (6), or section 169A.54, subdivision 1, clause (5), (6), or (7), may apply for a limited license, subject to the ignition interlock restriction, if the program participant is enrolled in a licensed chemical dependency treatment or rehabilitation program as recommended in a chemical use assessment, and if the participant meets the other applicable requirements of section 171.30. After completing a licensed chemical dependency treatment or rehabilitation program and one year of limited license use without violating the ignition interlock restriction, the conditions of limited license use, or program guidelines, the participant may apply for conditional reinstatement of the driver's license, subject to the ignition interlock restriction. If the program participant's ignition interlock device subsequently registers a positive breath alcohol concentration of 0.02 or higher, the commissioner shall cancel the driver's license, and the program participant may apply for another limited license according to this paragraph.

(e) Notwithstanding any statute or rule to the contrary, the commissioner has authority to determine when a program participant is eligible for restoration of full driving privileges, except that the commissioner shall not reinstate full driving privileges until the program participant has met all applicable prerequisites for reinstatement under section 169A.55 and until the program participant's device has registered no positive breath alcohol concentrations of 0.02 or higher during the preceding 90 days.

**Subd. 5. Penalties; program violations.** (a) If a program participant tampers with, circumvents, or bypasses a device; drives, operates, or exercises physical control over a motor vehicle not equipped with a device certified by the commissioner; violates a condition of a limited license issued under subdivision 4 and section 171.30; or violates the program guidelines of subdivision 3, the commissioner shall extend the person's revocation period under section 169A.52 or 169A.54 by:

- (1) 180 days for a first violation;
- (2) one year for a second violation; or
- (3) 545 days for a third and each subsequent violation.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the commissioner may terminate participation in the program by any person when, in the commissioner's judgment, termination is necessary to the interests of public safety and welfare. In the event of termination, the commissioner shall not reduce the applicable revocation period under section 169A.52 or 169A.54 by the amount of time during which the person possessed a limited or restricted driver's license issued under the authority of subdivision 4.

**Subd. 6. Penalties; tampering.** (a) A person who lends, rents, or leases a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a functioning ignition interlock device certified by the commissioner to a person with a license issued under this section knowing that the person is subject to the ignition interlock restriction is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) A person who tampers with, circumvents, or bypasses the ignition interlock device, or assists another to tamper with, circumvent, or bypass the device, is guilty of a misdemeanor except when the action was taken for emergency purposes or for mechanical repair, and the person limited to the use of an ignition interlock device does not operate the motor vehicle while the device is disengaged.

**Subd. 7. Venue.** In addition to the provisions of Rule 24 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure and section 627.01, a violation of subdivision 6 or section 171.09, subdivision 1, paragraph (g), may be prosecuted in:

- (1) the county in which the vehicle involved in the offense is found;
- (2) the county in which the accused resides;
- (3) any county through which the vehicle traveled in the course of the trip during or after which the offense was committed; or
- (4) the county in which the impaired driving incident occurred, which resulted in the accused being issued a driver's license with an ignition interlock restriction.

**Subd. 8. Rulemaking.** In establishing the performance standards and certification process of subdivision 2 and the program guidelines of subdivision 3, the commissioner is exempt from chapter 14, including section 14.386. If rules are otherwise necessary to implement this section, the commissioner may adopt, amend, and repeal rules using the exempt procedures of section 14.386, except that paragraph (b) shall not apply.

**History:** 2007 c 54 art 3 s 5; 2009 c 29 s 2,3; 2010 c 366 s 14; 2012 c 187 art 1 s 26; 2012 c 287 art 4 s 37; 2012 c 298 s 1