



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII

Transportation Safety Division, MS #3

4040 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302-1142

Phone: (503) 986-4190

Fax: (503) 986-3143

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TO: House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Chuck Hayes, Chairman
Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2347

Introduction:

Ignition Interlock Devices are a critical tool in the fight against impaired driving, and particularly, in combatting recidivism. The Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII has long recognized the valuable role the IID plays in supporting a diversion agreement or conviction and providing an immediate benefit to public safety while encouraging the long-term responsible driving habits needed for safe roads.

Background:

Oregon's IID program, developed in piecemeal over the years, has some challenging loopholes that can diminish the effectiveness of the IID. One of those loopholes is that a convicted impaired driver, or a driver that has entered into a diversion agreement with the courts can simply wait out a suspension period and not reestablish driving privileges, which would otherwise require the installation and use of an IID. When the suspension is up, the DUII offender can regain full driving privileges without ever having installed or used an IID to re-learn, practice and demonstrate safe and responsible driving habits as intended. The offender avoids a proven tool to prevent recidivism and support treatment and recovery, and public safety is compromised every time they get behind the wheel.

What the Bill Does:

SB 2347 plugs a significant loophole in Oregon's ignition interlock program. Currently, DUII offenders who are assigned an IID can simply wait out the period of IID assignment and not restore their driving privileges. HB 2347 continues that suspension of driving privileges until proof of an installed IID is provided to DMV. If an offender chooses to not reinstate their driving privileges, that is their prerogative. But under HB 2347, those privileges will be granted by demonstrating safe, responsible behavior...not by running out the clock.

Summary:

The Governor's Advisory Committee strongly encourages the House Judiciary Committee to support HB 2347. This strengthens Oregon's DUII laws and IID programs by closing a loophole that risks both the offender's successful recovery and the safety of all Oregonians on our roadways.