



# Pioneer Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Services, Inc.

DATE: May 19, 2015

TO: House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Teresa Douglas, Director  
Pioneer Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Services, Inc.  
Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Specialist

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 397

**Introduction:**

Senate bill 397 removes judicial discretion to allow Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Specialists to charge any fees beyond \$150. It also allows Diversion offenders to remove their Ignition Interlock Device after six months of compliance with Diversion and treatment.

**Background:**

The \$150 fee for Diversion was established 11 years ago. This \$150 fee not only pays for the assessment but also 12 to 18 months of monitoring. The costs of providing services and additional workload requirements have increased costs to Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Specialists. Some courts have recognized these increased costs and have allowed evaluators to charge additional fees for additional services.

The requirement to expand Ignition Interlock Devices to Diversion offenders was approved in the 2011 Legislative session, in recognition that this device reduces recidivism and increases public safety.

**What the Bill Does:**

Each jurisdiction has agreements with the Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Specialist as to how DUII Diversion cases are to be handled. This bill will reduce the income of the Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Specialist, to the point that some will have to go out of business. Those that don't go out of business will have to reduce their workloads by not providing all of the current services to courts, clients and treatment providers. Employees will also lose their jobs as this fee will not support the cost of employees. This will be devastating to the current DUII system.

By allowing Diversion clients to remove their Ignition Interlock Device after six months, this bill will remove the oversight that is needed once a client is no longer in treatment and no longer doing urine testing. We know from experience that the chance of relapse increases dramatically after the treatment is completed. I have not only caught clients consuming alcohol during treatment but also after treatment with the use of the Ignition Interlock Device. If there is no Ignition Interlock Device during that time, we will see an increase in recidivism and relapse during the last months of Diversion.

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**Summary:**

The screening procedure is required on all DUII offenders and Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Specialist's are required to monitor all Diversion clients through the full term of Diversion. The Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Specialist is the conduit through which information flows between the Courts, the offender and the treatment provider. The Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Specialist is able to provide valuable information to all parties involved. Every day I have clients tell me that no one has explained the Diversion program to them and they are totally confused about their responsibilities. By the time they leave my office, they are fully informed. The Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Specialist is also part of the checks and balances in the DUII system. I had a client, who blew a .23% BAC was referred to a program in Central Oregon. That program placed my client in an information only program, which requires minimal time in treatment and minimal urinalysis testing. I had to intervene to ensure that this client was placed in the most appropriate level of care and that they receive the treatment they need. Most treatment providers are responsible and responsive to the client's needs. However, there are always exceptions and Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Specialists provide needed oversight. The courts are aware of the amount of work these cases take and the level of service that I am providing. The Courts have allowed additional fees as they are aware that the \$150 is not enough to run a business and provide these services. This bill will not only deny the Courts their judicial discretion but will have devastating effects to the current DUII system.

As an Alcohol and Drug Evaluation Specialist, I have been monitoring the Ignition Interlock Device on my clients since the requirement went into effect. I have personally seen the benefits of the Ignition Interlock Device and whole heartedly support the use of Ignition Interlock Devices. However, this bill will allow Diversion offenders to remove their Ignition Interlock Device after only six months and during a time when the client is at higher risk for relapse. I have had numerous cases where the Ignition Interlock Device has provided proof of relapse and given us an opportunity to intervene before a tragedy occurs. This bill will open the door for more recidivism and less public safety. Therefore, I would ask that the committee vote no on Senate Bill 397.