

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

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2004 Regular Session
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By: **Senator Giannetti**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2004

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Federal Funds and Use of Ignition Interlock Systems**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the Maryland Congressional Delegation to support, work
4 to pass, and vote for legislation that would alter the conditions on which receipt
5 of certain federal highway safety funds are based so that the State can receive
6 those funds while allowing, in lieu of the automatic suspension of an individual's
7 driver's license, a sentence prohibiting an individual convicted of driving under
8 the influence of alcohol or while impaired by alcohol from operating a motor
9 vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system.

10 WHEREAS, Current federal law allows for the distribution of certain federal
11 highway funding to the State only if the State conforms to certain conditions; and

12 WHEREAS, Among those conditions are requirements that the State
13 automatically suspend the driver's license of any individual convicted of driving
14 under the influence of alcohol or while impaired by alcohol under § 21-902 (a) or (b) of
15 the Transportation Article; and

16 WHEREAS, Ignition interlock systems, as defined in § 27-107 of the
17 Transportation Article, connect a motor vehicle's ignition system to a breath analyzer
18 that measures a driver's blood alcohol level and then prevents the ignition from
19 starting if a driver's blood alcohol level exceeds the calibrated setting on the device;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Use of ignition interlock systems is a proven and effective method
22 of keeping drunk drivers off the State's highways and, thus, keeping the highways
23 safe; and

24 WHEREAS, Under current federal law, the State would no longer be eligible
25 for certain highway funds if it provided for the imposition of sentences substituting
26 mandated use of ignition interlock systems for the automatic suspension of the
27 driver's license of an individual convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or
28 while impaired by alcohol; now, therefore, be it

29 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That the
30 General Assembly urges the Maryland Congressional Delegation to support, work to
31 pass, and vote for legislation that would alter the conditions on which receipt of

1 federal highway safety funds under 23 U.S.C. §§ 401 through 411 are based so that
2 the State can receive those funds while allowing for, in lieu of the automatic
3 suspension of that individual's driver's license, a sentence prohibiting, for a specified
4 time, an individual convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or while
5 impaired by alcohol in violation of § 21-902 (a) or (b) of the Transportation Article
6 from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock system,
7 as defined in § 27-107 of the Transportation Article; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
9 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.
10 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
11 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, III, Benjamin L.
12 Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.
13 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington,
14 D.C. 20515.