



**2024 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL: SB 421 - Drunk Driving Offenses – Ignition Interlock System Program

COMMITTEE: Senate – Judicial Proceedings Committee

POSITION: Letter of Support

BILL ANALYSIS: SB 421 requires the Motor Vehicle Administration to require persons who are convicted of, or granted certain probation for, certain drunk driving offenses to participate in the Ignition Interlock System Program for certain periods of time.

POSITION RATIONALE: The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) supports SB 421. The bill would amend the Motor Vehicle Administration’s Ignition Interlock System Program to include those granted probation before judgment for criminal offenses related to driving while impaired by alcohol, a drug or drug combination, or a combination of drugs and alcohol.

Motor vehicle accidents continue to be a leading cause of death and injury in Maryland. In 2022, 26 percent of Maryland motor vehicle crash fatalities resulted from alcohol or drug impaired drivers. In that same year, 2,534 people were injured in impaired-driving accidents. These deaths were preventable. These accidents could have been avoided.¹

Currently, there is a gap in Maryland's response to impaired driving—individuals granted probation before judgement for driving while impaired are not included in the Maryland Ignition Interlock System Program. SB 421 seeks to close that loophole by adding those granted probation before judgement into the ignition interlock program. Research by the CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration demonstrates that ignition interlocks reduce repeat offenses of driving while impaired by 70 percent. Comprehensive laws requiring an ignition interlock for all offenders are associated with 26 percent fewer impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes. A comprehensive ignition interlock program will reduce injuries and save lives.²

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this **LOS for SB 421**. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at rmaioral@jhu.edu or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*

¹ MDOT MVA Maryland Highway Safety Office. zerodeathsmd.gov. Crash Summaries Data. Accessed February 1, 2024

² Casanova-Powell, T, Hedlund, J, Leaf, W, Tison, J. (2015). Evaluation of state ignition interlock programs : Interlock use analyses from 28 states, 2006–2011. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Governors Highway Safety Association.

