

HCS SCS SB 226 -- ALCOHOL-RELATED DRIVING OFFENSES

SPONSOR: Stouffer (St. Onge)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding alcohol- or drug-related driving offenses. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Requires courts to forward alcohol- or drug-related driving offense dispositions to the Department of Revenue within seven days. The Department of Revenue must then forward the information to the State Highway Patrol within 15 days;

(2) Removes the requirement that a licensed physician, registered nurse, or trained medical technician must use a nonalcoholic antiseptic for cleansing the skin prior to drawing blood for the purpose of determining alcohol content; and

(3) Requires any person who has been found guilty of or pled guilty to any intoxication-related traffic offense to use a functioning, certified ignition interlock device when operating a motor vehicle for a period of at least 12 months from the reinstatement of his or her driver's license.

The provision regarding the drawing of blood to determine alcohol content contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will correct discrepancies in the statutes.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Stouffer; and State Highway Patrol.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.