



RECKLESS DRIVING BILL (TRN 05) FACT SHEET

Bill Highlights

- Modifies the current reckless driving law to include defined penalties for first-time offenders and repeat offenders guilty of one or more traffic violations under the State's Traffic Code.

Purpose

- Expands reckless driving statutes to impose more defined penalties for first-time and repeat offenders.
- Provides more guidelines for judges to decide sentencing.

Current Law

- Reckless driving conviction penalties: Fine up to \$1,000 and/or up to 30 days of imprisonment.
- Sentencing is up to judge's discretion.
- Reckless Driving includes the following behavior(s):
 - Driving too fast for conditions or in excess of posted speed limits or racing
 - Failure to keep in proper lane
 - Failure to obey traffic signs or signals
 - Driving while drowsy or fatigued
 - Driving on wrong side of road

Penalties

- First-time Offense (not preceded by a prior conviction in the past 5 years):
 - \$500 to \$1,000 fine
 - 15 to 30-day license and operating suspension
 - attendance in anger management course and/or driver training course
 - assessment for driver education
 - 36 hours of community service work or 2 to 5 days of imprisonment
- Second Offense (within 5 years of a prior conviction):
 - \$750 to \$1,500 fine
 - 45 to 90-day license and operating suspension
 - attendance in a course of anger management and/or driver training

- assessment for driver education
- not less than 120 hours of community service work or 5 to 14 days of imprisonment
- For an offense within 5 years of *two* prior convictions
 - \$1,000 to \$2,500 fine
 - revocation of license and privilege to operate a vehicle for a period of not less than 90 days, but not more than one year
 - attendance in a course of anger management and/or driver training
 - assessment for driver education or 10 to 30 days of imprisonment

Statistics

- 398 fatal motor vehicle crashes occurred from 2005 to 2007, resulting in 439 fatalities
 - 33.4% (133) of fatal crashes involved drivers who exhibited characteristics of reckless driving
 - 32.8% of the total fatalities (144) were the result of reckless driving