

A RESOLUTION

**Proposed Resolution
20-42**

**See Emergency Act
D.C. Act 20-3
20 DCSTAT 410**

To declare the existence of an emergency, due to Congressional review, with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia Implied Consent Act to clarify and organize provisions related to the chemical testing of breath, blood, and urine with regard to operation of vehicles and watercraft in the District, to clarify and strengthen provisions governing preliminary breath testing, implied consent to chemical testing, and refusal to submit specimens for chemical testing, to limit the persons permitted to withdraw blood for the purposes of chemical testing to medical professionals, to provide immunity from civil liability for medical professionals, law enforcement officers, and persons who assist them when they are engaged in the lawful withdrawal of blood, and to clarify the information related to chemical testing that is to be made available to a defendant; to amend the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925 to update definitions, to revise outdated language, to increase fines to make them proportional with the associated incarceration period, to create a new offense of leaving after colliding, and to create a new offense for an object falling or flying from a vehicle; to amend the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982 to organize all impaired driving offenses and operating watercraft while impaired offenses together, to update and clarify definitions and provisions related to impaired driving, to create a new offense for operating a commercial vehicle while intoxicated or impaired, to clarify the provisions that require the imposition of mandatory-minimum sentences for alcohol or drug impairment offenses; to increase the mandatory-minimum sentences for people convicted of an impaired driving offense who have more than a stated level of alcohol concentration or who have prior impaired driving convictions; to amend the offense of operating a vehicle while impaired to allow the District to offer a plea option not only for people who operate a vehicle while impaired by the consumption of alcohol but also for people who are impaired by a drug or a combination of a drug and alcohol; to provide for a penalty for persons convicted of operating a vehicle while impaired when they have prior convictions for alcohol or drug impaired driving offenses; to provide that the alcohol concentration used nationally to revoke a commercial drivers license be used as the level for a per se impaired driving offense for drivers of commercial vehicles and vehicles for hire, and establishing a mandatory-minimum of 5 days incarceration for persons convicted of operating or being in physical control of those vehicles while impaired; to create a mandatory-minimum penalty for a person who is convicted of an impaired driving offense who at the time of the offense had a minor in the vehicle; to amend the Department of Forensic Sciences Establishment Act of 2011 to clarify and strengthen the District's breath test program; to amend the Establishment of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Act of 2000 to clarify the responsibility for blood and urine testing and to clarify and strengthen the District's breath test program; to amend section 14-307 of the District of Columbia Official Code to permit the release of medical information when a patient is charged with an impaired driving offense and where the patient caused the death of or injury to a human being; and to amend Chapter 10 of Title 25 of the District of Columbia Official Code to move boating while intoxicated to Title 50 and to make conforming amendments.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Comprehensive Impaired Driving and Alcohol Testing Program Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2013".

**Comprehensive
Impaired Driving
and Alcohol Testing
Program
Congressional
Review Emergency
Declaration
Resolution of 2013**

Sec. 2. (a) The Comprehensive Impaired Driving and Alcohol Testing Program Amendment Act of 2012, signed by the Mayor on October 24, 2012 (D.C. Act 19-489), was unanimously approved by the Council.

(b) Bill 19-777 is a necessary overhaul of the District's impaired driving laws and a needed revision to the District's alcohol breath-testing program.

(c) Some of the key changes made by Bill 19-777 include:

(1) A reorganization and clarification to the provisions related to the chemical testing of breath, blood, and urine with regard to operation of vehicles and watercraft in the District;

(2) Amendments to the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925 to increase fines to make them proportional with the associated incarceration period, revising the offense of leaving after colliding, and creating a new offense for an object falling or flying from a vehicle;

(3) A reorganization of the District's impaired driving laws to make them clear and understandable, creating a new offense for operating a commercial vehicle while intoxicated or impaired, clarifying the provisions that require the imposition of mandatory-minimum sentences for alcohol or drug impairment offenses, increasing the mandatory-minimum sentences for people convicted of an impaired driving offense who have more than a stated level of alcohol concentration or who have prior impaired driving convictions, and increasing the mandatory-minimum sentences for impaired driving offenses and include enhancements for a person who is convicted of an impaired driving offense who at the time of the offense had a minor in the vehicle; and

(4) Clarifying and strengthening the District's breath-test program and clarifying the responsibility for blood and urine testing.

(e) The District's breath-test program has been out-of-service since February 2010, but a concerted effort by several public safety agencies has created a world-class breath-testing program that re-launched this month.

(f) Emergency legislation, Bill 19-873, was adopted prior to Council recess and expired on October 28, 2012, at which point Bill 19-777 was still undergoing a 60-day Congressional review. To prevent a gap in the law, a Congressional review emergency, Bill 19-981, was adopted by the Council on October 26, 2012, but is set to expire on January 24, 2013. The permanent version, Bill 19-777 is still under Congressional review. Thus, another Congressional review emergency is necessary to prevent a gap in the law.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Comprehensive Impaired Driving and Alcohol Testing Program Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2013 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.