

Representative Mike Hawker

Alaska State Legislature



House Bill 271 Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to the offenses of driving while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, inhalant, or controlled substance and refusal to submit to a chemical test."

Every year, we see too many needless deaths on our roads from accidents caused by drunken drivers. Education, enforcement and stricter penalties have reduced our DUI rates over the years. However, hardcore drinkers, who continue to drink and drive despite previous convictions, still plague our highways.

The changes proposed by House Bill 271 will put additional public protections in place after an offender is arrested but before trial and change our current statutes to apply stiffer penalties to repeat offenders sooner.

Specifically the bill will:

- require, as a condition of bail, that anyone arrested for driving under the influence be prohibited from operating a motor vehicle without an ignition interlock installed;
- require, before a vehicle used in a driving under the influence offense and owned by the offender is released from impound, installation of an ignition interlock device; and
- apply the current charges, fines and minimum sentences for a third DUI offense to the second offense in ten years.

These changes will also apply to the crime of refusal to submit to a chemical test.

The methods considered by HB 271 are not new – the use of ignition interlock devices and stricter penalties for repeat DUIs already exist in our statutes. What the bill does is apply these methods sooner in the process – preventing future offenses and accidents and saving lives.

Session:

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
907 465-4949 direct
800 478-4950 toll free
907 465-4979 fax

Interim:

716 W 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
907 269-0244 office
907 269-0248 fax

House District 32:

Eagle River
Anchorage
Rainbow
Indian
Bird
Girdwood
Portage
Whittier
Sunrise
Hope