

Legislative Update – 1/6/2017

This is a summary of ATOD related legislation introduced during the first session of the 2017 – 2018 biennium. Bills not passed this session will remain active for the 2018 session. To see any given bill, click on the link.

NOTE: Bill Number in **RED** indicates passed by both houses and sent to Governor for signing into law.

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[Senate Bills 2017](#)

NEW THIS WEEK:

H.8 An act relating to distracted driving

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2018/Docs/BILLS/H-0008/H-0008%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to:

- (1) require the assessment of points against a person's driving record for violating the law prohibiting handheld use of a portable electronic device while driving if the offense occurs in a school zone;
- (2) require the assessment of points against a person's driving record for a second or subsequent violation of the law prohibiting handheld use of a portable electronic device while driving;
- (3) require that an oral or written license examination administered by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles test the applicant's awareness of the dangers of distracted driving;
- (4) require the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to recall a minor's learner's permit or junior operator's license for 30 days following a second or subsequent conviction of violating the law prohibiting handheld use of a portable electronic device while driving;
- (5) amend the law creating the State's DUI Enforcement Special Fund in order to rename the Fund and expand the purpose of the Fund to include expenditures to support enforcement of the State's distracted driving laws, and make related conforming changes.

Introduced by Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Conquest of Newbury, Potter of Clarendon, Stuart of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Viens of Newport City, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury

Not yet assigned to committee

S.3 An act relating to mental health professionals' duty to warn

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2018/Docs/BILLS/S-0003/S-0003%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to impose a duty on mental health professionals to take reasonable precautions when a patient poses an imminent risk of serious danger to a reasonably identifiable victim.

Introduced by Senators Sears, Ayer, and White

Not yet assigned to committee

CHANGED:

HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED IN 2017:

H.8 An act relating to distracted driving

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This bill proposes to:

- (1) require the assessment of points against a person's driving record for violating the law prohibiting

handheld use of a portable electronic device while driving if the offense occurs in a school zone;
(2) require the assessment of points against a person's driving record for a second or subsequent violation of the law prohibiting handheld use of a portable electronic device while driving;
(3) require that an oral or written license examination administered by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles test the applicant's awareness of the dangers of distracted driving;
(4) require the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to recall a minor's learner's permit or junior operator's license for 30 days following a second or subsequent conviction of violating the law prohibiting handheld use of a portable electronic device while driving;
(5) amend the law creating the State's DUI Enforcement Special Fund in order to rename the Fund and expand the purpose of the Fund to include expenditures to support enforcement of the State's distracted driving laws, and make related conforming changes.

Introduced by Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Conquest of Newbury, Potter of Clarendon, Stuart of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Viens of Newport City, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury

Not yet assigned to committee

SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED IN 2017:

S.3 An act relating to mental health professionals' duty to warn

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2018/Docs/BILLS/S-0003/S-0003%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to impose a duty on mental health professionals to take reasonable precautions when a patient poses an imminent risk of serious danger to a reasonably identifiable victim.

Introduced by Senators Sears, Ayer, and White

Not yet assigned to committee