



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 1376***

LCO No. 5087



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:  
(TRA)

***AN ACT REDUCING BLOOD ALCOHOL LIMITS FOR IMPAIRED  
DRIVING AND BOATING, CONCERNING INFORMATION REGARDING  
POLICE PHLEBOTOMY TRAINING AND STUDYING THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC WARRANT TECHNOLOGY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 14-227a of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
3 *2, 2026*):

4 No person shall operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of  
5 intoxicating liquor or any drug or both. A person commits the offense  
6 of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating  
7 liquor or any drug or both if such person operates a motor vehicle (1)  
8 while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both, or  
9 (2) while such person has an elevated blood alcohol content. For the  
10 purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio  
11 of alcohol in the blood of such person that is [~~eight-hundredths~~] five-  
12 hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, except that if  
13 such person is operating a commercial motor vehicle, "elevated blood  
14 alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that

15 is four-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, and  
 16 "motor vehicle" includes a snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle, as those  
 17 terms are defined in section 14-379. For purposes of this section, section  
 18 14-227b, as amended by this act, and section 14-227c, (A) "advanced  
 19 roadside impaired driving enforcement" means a program developed  
 20 by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with the  
 21 International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Technical Advisory  
 22 Panel, which focuses on impaired driving enforcement education for  
 23 police officers, or any successor to such program; (B) "drug influence  
 24 evaluation" means an evaluation developed by the National Highway  
 25 Traffic Safety Administration and the International Association of  
 26 Chiefs of Police that is conducted by a drug recognition expert to  
 27 determine the level of a person's impairment from the use of drugs and  
 28 the drug category causing such impairment; (C) "drug recognition  
 29 expert" means a person certified by the International Association of  
 30 Chiefs of Police as having met all requirements of the International Drug  
 31 Evaluation and Classification Program; and (D) "nontestimonial portion  
 32 of a drug influence evaluation" means a drug influence evaluation  
 33 conducted by a drug recognition expert that does not include a verbal  
 34 interview with the subject.

35 Sec. 2. Subsection (o) of section 14-227b of the general statutes is  
 36 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
 37 *2, 2026*):

38 (o) For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content"  
 39 means (1) a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is [eight-  
 40 hundredths] five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by  
 41 weight, (2) if such person is operating a commercial motor vehicle, a  
 42 ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is four-hundredths of  
 43 one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, or (3) if such person is less  
 44 than twenty-one years of age, a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such  
 45 person that is two-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by  
 46 weight.

47 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 14-227m of the general statutes is  
48 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
49 *2, 2026*):

50 (a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle in which a child under  
51 eighteen years of age is a passenger while such person (1) is under the  
52 influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both, or (2) has an  
53 elevated blood alcohol content. For the purposes of this section,  
54 "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of  
55 such person that is [eight-hundredths] five-hundredths of one per cent  
56 or more of alcohol, by weight, except that if such person is operating a  
57 commercial motor vehicle, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a  
58 ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is four-hundredths of  
59 one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, and if such person is under  
60 twenty-one years of age, "elevated blood alcohol content" means a ratio  
61 of alcohol in the blood of such person that is two-hundredths of one per  
62 cent or more of alcohol by weight; and "motor vehicle" includes a  
63 snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle, as those terms are defined in section  
64 14-379.

65 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 14-227n of the general statutes is  
66 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
67 *2, 2026*):

68 (a) (1) No person shall operate a school bus, student transportation  
69 vehicle or other motor vehicle specially designated for carrying children  
70 while such person (A) is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or  
71 any drug or both, or (B) has an elevated blood alcohol content.

72 (2) No person shall operate a school bus, student transportation  
73 vehicle or other motor vehicle specially designated for carrying children  
74 in which a child under eighteen years of age is a passenger while such  
75 person (A) is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or  
76 both, or (B) has an elevated blood alcohol content.

77 (3) For the purposes of this section, "motor vehicle specially

78 designated for carrying children" means any motor vehicle, except for a  
 79 registered school bus or student transportation vehicle as defined in  
 80 section 14-212, that is designated or used by a person, firm or  
 81 corporation for the transportation of children to or from any program or  
 82 activity organized primarily for persons under the age of eighteen years,  
 83 with or without charge to the individual being transported, but does not  
 84 include a passenger motor vehicle normally used for personal, family or  
 85 household purposes that is operated by a person without a public  
 86 passenger endorsement; and "elevated blood alcohol content" means a  
 87 ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is [eight-hundredths]  
 88 five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, except  
 89 that if such person is operating a commercial motor vehicle, "elevated  
 90 blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such  
 91 person that is four-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by  
 92 weight, and if such person is under twenty-one years of age, "elevated  
 93 blood alcohol content" means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such  
 94 person that is two-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by  
 95 weight.

96 Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 15-133 of the general statutes is  
 97 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
 98 *2, 2026*):

99 (d) No person shall operate a vessel: (1) While under the influence of  
 100 intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both, or (2) while such person has an  
 101 elevated blood alcohol content. For the purposes of this section and  
 102 sections 15-140l and 15-140n, "elevated blood alcohol content" means:  
 103 (A) A ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is [eight-  
 104 hundredths] five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by  
 105 weight, or (B) if such person is under twenty-one years of age, a ratio of  
 106 alcohol in the blood of such person that is two-hundredths of one per  
 107 cent or more of alcohol, by weight. For the purposes of this section and  
 108 sections 15-132a, 15-140l, 15-140n, 15-140o and 15-140q, as amended by  
 109 this act, "operate" means that the vessel is underway or aground and not  
 110 moored, anchored or docked.

111 Sec. 6. Subdivision (4) of subsection (g) of section 15-140q of the  
112 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
113 thereof (*Effective January 2, 2026*):

114 (4) At a hearing held under this subsection, the results of the test, if  
115 administered, shall be sufficient to indicate the ratio of alcohol in the  
116 blood of such person at the time of operation, except that if the results  
117 of an additional test, administered pursuant to section 15-140r, indicate  
118 that the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person is [eight-hundredths]  
119 five-hundredths of one per cent or less of alcohol, by weight, and is  
120 higher than the results of the first test, evidence shall be presented that  
121 demonstrates that the test results and analysis thereof accurately  
122 indicate the blood alcohol content at the time of operation. The fees of  
123 any witness summoned to appear at a hearing under this subsection  
124 shall be the same as provided in section 52-260.

125 Sec. 7. Subsection (n) of section 15-140q of the general statutes is  
126 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
127 *2, 2026*):

128 (n) For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content"  
129 means: (1) A ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is [eight-  
130 hundredths] five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by  
131 weight, or (2) if such person is under twenty-one years of age, a ratio of  
132 alcohol in the blood of such person that is two-hundredths of one per  
133 cent or more of alcohol, by weight.

134 Sec. 8. Section 38a-498c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
135 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 2, 2026*):

136 No individual health insurance policy providing coverage of the type  
137 specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469  
138 delivered, issued for delivery, amended, renewed or continued in this  
139 state shall deny coverage for health care services rendered to treat any  
140 injury sustained by any person when such injury is alleged to have  
141 occurred or occurs under circumstances in which (1) such person has an

142 elevated blood alcohol content, or (2) such person has sustained such  
143 injury while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or  
144 both. For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content"  
145 means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is [eight-  
146 hundredths] five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by  
147 weight.

148 Sec. 9. Section 38a-525c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
149 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 2, 2026*):

150 No group health insurance policy providing coverage of the type  
151 specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469  
152 delivered, issued for delivery, amended, renewed or continued in this  
153 state shall deny coverage for health care services rendered to treat any  
154 injury sustained by any person when such injury is alleged to have  
155 occurred or occurs under circumstances in which (1) such person has an  
156 elevated blood alcohol content, or (2) such person has sustained such  
157 injury while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or  
158 both. For the purposes of this section, "elevated blood alcohol content"  
159 means a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is [eight-  
160 hundredths] five-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by  
161 weight.

162 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioners of  
163 Transportation and Emergency Services and Public Protection, in  
164 consultation with the Attorney General and the Chief State's Attorney,  
165 shall coordinate an interagency exchange of information to (1) promote  
166 phlebotomy training available to police officers, (2) summarize  
167 phlebotomy procedures and best practices developed by other states  
168 that implemented law enforcement phlebotomy programs to identify  
169 polysubstance use and impairment detection issues in order to combat  
170 impaired driving, and (3) provide educational materials and answer  
171 questions from police officers concerning phlebotomy training and  
172 police liability.

173 Sec. 11. (*Effective from passage*) The Chief Court Administrator and the  
 174 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall jointly  
 175 study the feasibility of implementing electronic warrant technology to  
 176 allow a police officer to submit, and a judge to review and approve, an  
 177 application for a search warrant electronically when a police officer  
 178 suspects a person is operating a motor vehicle while under the influence  
 179 of intoxicating liquor or drugs, or both, in violation of section 14-227a of  
 180 the general statutes, as amended by this act. Not later than February 1,  
 181 2026, the Chief Court Administrator and the Commissioner of  
 182 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall submit the results of  
 183 such study and any recommendations concerning the implementation  
 184 of electronic warrant technology to the joint standing committees of the  
 185 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
 186 judiciary, transportation and public safety and security, in accordance  
 187 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 2, 2026</i>	14-227a(a)
Sec. 2	<i>January 2, 2026</i>	14-227b(o)
Sec. 3	<i>January 2, 2026</i>	14-227m(a)
Sec. 4	<i>January 2, 2026</i>	14-227n(a)
Sec. 5	<i>January 2, 2026</i>	15-133(d)
Sec. 6	<i>January 2, 2026</i>	15-140q(g)(4)
Sec. 7	<i>January 2, 2026</i>	15-140q(n)
Sec. 8	<i>January 2, 2026</i>	38a-498c
Sec. 9	<i>January 2, 2026</i>	38a-525c
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) lower the blood alcohol content for driving and boating under the influence from eight-hundredths to five-hundredths of one per cent of alcohol, by weight, (2) coordinate an interagency exchange of information concerning police phlebotomy training, and (3) study the feasibility of implementing electronic warrant technology.

***[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]***