



# Maryland Department of Transportation

## NOAH'S LAW

### BACKGROUND

The Drunk Driving Reduction Act of 2016, also known as Noah's Law, was signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan on May 19, 2016, and will take effect on **OCTOBER 1, 2016**. The law is named for Montgomery County Police Officer Noah A. Leotta, who was hit and killed by a drunk driver in December 2015 while pulling over another suspected drunk driver during a holiday patrol.

Noah's Law will protect Marylanders and make our roadways safer by significantly increasing administrative driver's license suspension periods and mandating ignition interlock for those convicted of drunk driving. An ignition interlock is a device that prevents a vehicle from starting when it detects a certain level of alcohol on the driver's breath and requires the driver to retest at random points while they are driving.

### NOAH'S LAW OVERVIEW

- Significantly increases administrative driver's license suspension periods.

#### Changes to Some Driver's License Suspension Periods Under Noah's Law

	<u>BAC 0.08-0.14</u>		<u>BAC 0.15 or Above</u>		<u>Test Refusal</u>	
	Current Law	Noah's Law	Current Law	Noah's Law	Current Law	Noah's Law
1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	45 Days	180 Days	90 Days	180 Days	120 Days	270 Days
2 <sup>nd</sup> or Subsequent	90 Days	180 Days	180 Days	270 Days	1 Year	2 Years

BAC = blood alcohol concentration

- Mandates an ignition interlock device for drivers convicted of:
  - Driving under the influence (DUI).
  - Driving while intoxicated (DWI) while transporting a minor under the age of 16.
  - Driving while intoxicated with an initial breathalyzer test refusal.
- Homicide or life-threatening injury by motor vehicle while DUI or DWI. Chemical test with a BAC of .08 - .14 can opt-in to interlock for 180 days in lieu of driver's license suspension.
- Mandates successful completion of the Ignition Interlock Program with no violations in the final three months before release from the program.
- Continues the enhanced penalties for drivers under the age of 21 and drivers who have prior alcohol-related incidents.

### MARYLAND'S IGNITION INTERLOCK PROGRAM

The passage of Noah's Law strengthens Maryland's already robust Ignition Interlock Program making it one of the strongest programs in the nation. Maryland's program has the 6th highest number of ignition interlocks installed and the 9th highest usage rate in the nation. Of the approximately 11,000 referrals for participation in the program, there are nearly 7,000 drivers currently enrolled. Noah's Law will add several thousand drunk drivers to Maryland's Ignition Interlock Program.

## MARYLAND'S BAC LAW

In Maryland, drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or higher are charged with driving under the Influence (DUI) and those with a BAC of 0.07 may be charged with driving while impaired (DWI).

### TIPS

Maryland officials recommend these safe alternatives to impaired driving:

- Before drinking any alcohol, always make a plan to have a safe and sober ride.
- Designate a sober driver or use public transportation to get home safely.
- Use Maryland's ENDUI (End-DUI) app, which is free at the iTunes and Google Play stores. ENDUI is an educational tool that allows a user to find transportation options and estimate their blood alcohol concentration based upon drinks consumed.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement agency by dialing 911.
- If you know people who are about to drive after drinking, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

More information on Noah's Law and Maryland's Ignition Interlock Program: [www.towardzerodeathsmd.com/noah](http://www.towardzerodeathsmd.com/noah).

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