

State Representative
Kim Thatcher
House District 25



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CONTACT: Dawn Phillips
503.750.1764

Governor Signs Important New Drunk Driving Bill Into Law

(Salem) An important new law to crack down on drinking and driving in Oregon was signed into law by Governor John Kitzhaber today. [House Bill 3075](#) will require anyone arrested for the first time on a drunk driving charge in Oregon to install an ignition interlock device as a condition of a court ordered diversion program.

“These devices are like having a probation officer on the dash board of the car,” said [Representative Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer, Newberg and St. Paul), one of the leading authors of the legislation. “Ignition interlocks hold offenders accountable while protecting the safety of the public on the road.” The devices act like a breathalyzer and prevent the car from starting if the driver has been drinking alcohol.

Latest figures from the Oregon Department of Transportation show 129 people are killed in Oregon each year and another 1,200 injured from drunk drivers. Of the 24,000 arrests for DUII, 11,000 result in a conviction, and another 11,000 enroll in diversion. Only those convicted are currently required to install ignition interlocks in order to have their driver’s license restored.

“By requiring drunk driving offenders to prove their sobriety before starting a car, Oregon families can breathe easier knowing that their roads are safer,” said [Jan Withers, National President of Mothers Against Drunk Driving](#). “This bill helps the state take another step towards the elimination of drunk driving.”

The measure passed unanimously in both the Oregon House of Representatives and the Oregon Senate during the 2011 Legislative Session and will take effect in January 2012. Other sponsors of the HB 3075 include Representatives [Dave Hunt](#) (D-Clackamas County), [Jeff Barker](#) (D-Aloha) and [Val Hoyle](#) (D-Eugene).

Other supporters of the bill include; [The Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII](#), [Mothers Against Drunk Driving](#), [Oregon Anti-Crime Alliance](#), the [Oregon State Sheriff's Association](#), the [Oregon Association Chiefs of Police](#), the [Oregon District Attorneys Association](#), [Crime Victims United](#), and [Oregon Impact](#).

For more background information about the new law refer to the following links:

<http://www.madd.org/get-involved/advocacy/news/press-releases/madd-commends-oregon-legislature.html>

http://www.leg.state.or.us/thatcher/pr_061611.pdf

<http://www.madd.org/get-involved/advocacy/news/press-releases/close-loopholes-in-oregon-duii-law.html>

http://www.leg.state.or.us/press_releases/thatcher_030711.pdf

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Representative Kim Thatcher
900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1425
www.leg.state.or.us/thatcher Rep.kimthatcher@state.or.us