


Councilmember Charles Allen

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend, on an emergency basis, the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act of the District of Columbia to restate the offenses for which the DMV shall suspend a driver's license and vehicle registration and the conditions for reinstatement and to make conforming amendments, and to amend the District of Columbia Traffic Act of 1925 to make conforming amendments.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "STEER Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2026".

Sec. 2. The Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act of the District of Columbia, approved May 25, 1954 (68 Stat. 120; D.C. Official Code § 50-1301.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 34 (D.C. Official Code § 50-1301.34) is amended as follows:

(1) The section heading is amended by striking the phrase "of future responsibility" and inserting the phrase "proof of financial responsibility" in its place.

(2) Strike the phrase "responsibility for the future, subject" and insert the phrase "responsibility, subject" in its place.

(b) Section 35 (D.C. Official Code § 50-1301.35) is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 35. Definitions.

"For the purposes of this act, the term:

35 “(1) “DMV“ means the Department of Motor Vehicles established by section 1822(a) of the
36 Department of Motor Vehicles Establishment Act of 1998, effective March 26, 1999 (D.C. Law 12-
37 175; D.C. Official Code § 50-901(a)).

38 “(2) “Judgment” means any judgment which shall have become final by expiration without
39 appeal of the time within which an appeal might have been perfected, or by final affirmation on
40 appeal, rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction of any state, the District of Columbia, or of the
41 United States, upon a cause of action arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of any
42 vehicle of a type subject to registration under the laws of the District of Columbia, for damages,
43 including damages for care and loss of services, because of bodily injury to or death of any person,
44 or for damages because of injury to or destruction of property including the loss of use thereof, or
45 upon a cause of action on an agreement of settlement for such damages.

46 “(3) “Proof of financial responsibility” or “proof” means proof that the motor vehicle
47 subject to registration or reciprocity under the laws of the District of Columbia is an insured motor
48 vehicle under the provisions of the Compulsory/No-Fault Motor Vehicle Insurance Act of 1982,
49 effective September 18, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-155; D.C. Official Code § 31-2401 et seq.).

50 “(4) “State” means any state, territory, or possession of the United States or any province or
51 territory of Canada.”.

52 (c) Section 36 (D.C. Official Code § 50-1301.36) is repealed.

53 (d) New sections 37a and 38a are added to read as follows:

54 “Sec. 37a. Suspension of license and registration upon conviction of certain offenses;
55 exceptions; transmission of judgments.

56 “(a) The DMV shall suspend, in accordance with the requirements of section 38a, the
57 license and registration of any person who was convicted or adjudicated a juvenile delinquent by a

final order or judgment for, or who forfeited any bond or collateral given to secure their appearance for trial for a violation of, the following offenses:

“(1) Driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or a drug, as described in section 3b of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective April 27, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-266; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.11);

“(2) Driving under the influence of alcohol or a drug; commercial vehicle, as described in section 3c of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective April 27, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-266; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.12);

“(3) Operating a vehicle while impaired, as described in section 3e of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective April 27, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-266; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.14);

“(4) Any homicide resulting from a person being struck by a motor vehicle, including:

“(A) Murder in the first degree, as described in section 798 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official Code § 22-2101);

“(B) Murder in the second degree, as described in section 800 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official Code § 22-2103);

“(C) Manslaughter; and

“(D) Negligent homicide, as described in section 802(a) of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (49 Stat. 385; D.C. Official Code § 50-2203.01);

81 “(5) Leaving after colliding, as described in section 10c of the District of Columbia
82 Traffic Act, 1925, approved March 3, 1925 (43 Stat. 1124; D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.05c);

83 “(6) Aggravated reckless driving, as described in section 9(c) of the District of
84 Columbia Traffic Act, 1925, approved March 3, 1925 (43 Stat. 1123; D.C. Official Code § 50-
85 2201.04(b-1));

86 “(7) Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used; or

87 “(8) Any offense committed in another state which, if committed in the District of
88 Columbia, would constitute one of the offenses listed in paragraphs (1) through (7) of this
89 subsection.

90 “(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the DMV shall not suspend registrations
91 as described in subsection (a) of this section in cases where the conviction was based on:

92 “(1) A person's operation of a vehicle owned by or leased to the United States, the
93 District of Columbia, another state, or a political subdivision thereof; and

94 “(2) The person was acting as an agent of the United States, the District of
95 Columbia, another state, or a political subdivision thereof.

96 “(c)(1)(A) Whenever a judgment of conviction for any offense listed in subsection (a) of this
97 section has become final, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia shall transmit a record of
98 the conviction to the DMV.

99 “(B) A judgment of conviction shall be deemed to have become final for the
100 purposes of this subsection if:

101 “(i) No appeal is taken from the judgment, upon the expiration of the
102 time within which an appeal could have been taken; or

“(ii) An appeal is taken from the judgment, the date upon which the judgment, having been sustained, can no longer be appealed from or reviewed on a writ of certiorari.

“(2) If the DMV receives a record of a conviction of a nonresident, the DMV shall transmit the record to the state or territorial agency that issued the nonresident's license.

“(d) Nothing in this section shall limit the power of a judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to limit or restrict a defendant's driving privileges as a condition of a pretrial release or as a component of the defendant's sentence.”.

“Sec. 38a. Requirements for reinstatement of license and registration.

“(a) For a person whose license and registration was suspended pursuant to section 37a, the person's license and registration shall remain suspended, and the person shall be ineligible for a new or renewed license or registration, until the person:

“(1) Completes a 6-month period of license and registration suspension;

“(2) Provides and maintains proof of financial responsibility;

“(3) Pays a \$100 reinstatement fee;

“(4) If the person committed a covered offense, as that term is defined in section 10a(a) of the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925, effective April 3, 2001 (D.C. Law 13-238; D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.05a(a)) ("Traffic Act of 1925"), successfully completes the period of enrollment in the Ignition Interlock Program as required by section 10a of the Traffic Act of 1925; and

“(5) If the person was traveling 20 miles per hour or more over the speed limit during the commission of the offense, successfully completes the period of enrollment in the Intelligent Speed Assistance Program as required by section 10a-1 of the Traffic Act of 1925.

“(b) If a person is required to be enrolled indefinitely in the Intelligent Speed Assistant Program pursuant to section 10a-1(c)(4) of the Traffic Act of 1925, the person shall not be issued a license and, instead, shall only be issued a restricted license subject to the condition that the person remain enrolled in the Ignition Interlock Program or Intelligent Speed Assistant Program, respectively.

“(b) The DMV may, through rulemaking, adopt additional requirements that must be satisfied before a person's license is reinstated as described in subsection (a) of this section.”.

Sec. 3. Section 10a-1(a) of the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925, approved March 3, 1925 (43 Stat. 1119; D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.05a-1) is amended by striking the phrase “to section 38(a)(5) of” and inserting the phrase “to section 38a(a)(5) of” in its place.

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 5. Effective Date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and shall remain in effect for no longer than 90 days, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in section 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788; D.C. Official Code § 1-204.12(a)).