By: Representative Reeves

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1151

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 63-11-30, 63-11-49 AND 63-11-53, 1 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS AND 2 DISPOSITION UNDER THE IMPLIED CONSENT LAW; TO PROVIDE NOTICE TO 3 LIENHOLDERS; TO REPEAL SECTION 63-11-51, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, 4 WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE INSTITUTION OF FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS; AND 5 6 FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: 8 SECTION 1. Section 63-11-30, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 9 amended as follows: 63-11-30. (1) It is unlawful for any person to drive or 10 otherwise operate a vehicle within this state who (a) is under the 11 12 influence of intoxicating liquor; (b) is under the influence of any other substance which has impaired such person's ability to 13 14 operate a motor vehicle; (c) has an alcohol concentration of ten one-hundredths percent (.10%) or more for persons who are above 15 the legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages under state law, or 16 two one-hundredths percent (.02%) or more for persons who are 17 18 below the legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages under state 19 law, in the person's blood based upon grams of alcohol per one hundred (100) milliliters of blood or grams of alcohol per two 20 21 hundred ten (210) liters of breath as shown by a chemical analysis of such person's breath, blood or urine administered as authorized 2.2 by this chapter; (d) is under the influence of any drug or 23 controlled substance, the possession of which is unlawful under 24 the Mississippi Controlled Substances Law; or (e) has an alcohol 25 26 concentration of four one-hundredths percent (.04%) or more in the person's blood, based upon grams of alcohol per one hundred (100) 27 28 milliliters of blood or grams of alcohol per two hundred ten (210)

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    blood, breath or urine, administered as authorized by this chapter
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    for persons operating a commercial motor vehicle.
         (2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3),
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    upon conviction of any person for the first offense of violating
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    subsection (1) of this section where chemical tests provided for
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    under Section 63-11-5 were given, or where chemical test results
    are not available, such person shall be fined not less than Two
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    Hundred Fifty Dollars ($250.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars
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    ($1,000.00), or imprisoned for not more than forty-eight (48)
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    hours in jail or both; and the court shall order such person to
    attend and complete an alcohol safety education program as
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    provided in Section 63-11-32.
                                   The court may substitute attendance
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    at a victim impact panel instead of forty-eight (48) hours in
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          In addition, the Department of Public Safety, the
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    jail.
    Commissioner of Public Safety or his duly authorized agent shall,
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    after conviction and upon receipt of the court abstract, suspend
    the driver's license and driving privileges of such person for a
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    period of not less than ninety (90) days and until such person
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    attends and successfully completes an alcohol safety education
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    program as herein provided; provided, however, in no event shall
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    such period of suspension exceed one (1) year. Commercial driving
    privileges shall be suspended as provided in Section 63-1-83.
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         The circuit court having jurisdiction in the county in which
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    the conviction was had or the circuit court of the person's county
    of residence may reduce the suspension of driving privileges under
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    Section 63-11-30(2)(a) if the denial of which would constitute a
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    hardship on the offender, except that no court may issue such an
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    order reducing the suspension of driving privileges under this
    subsection until thirty (30) days have elapsed from the effective
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    date of the suspension. Hardships shall only apply to first
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    offenses under Section 63-11-30(1), and shall not apply to second,
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    third or subsequent convictions of any person violating subsection
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liters of breath as shown by a chemical analysis of such person's

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(1) of this section. A reduction of suspension on the basis of
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    hardship shall not be available to any person who refused to
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    submit to a chemical test upon the request of a law enforcement
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    officer as provided in Section 63-11-5. When the petition is
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    filed, such person shall pay to the circuit clerk of the court
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    where the petition is filed a fee of Fifty Dollars ($50.00), which
    shall be deposited into the State General Fund to the credit of a
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    special fund hereby created in the State Treasury to be used for
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    alcohol or drug abuse treatment and education, upon appropriation
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    by the Legislature. This fee shall be in addition to any other
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    court costs or fees required for the filing of petitions.
         The petition filed under the provisions of this subsection
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    shall contain the specific facts which the petitioner alleges to
    constitute a hardship and the driver's license number of the
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    petitioner. A hearing may be held on any petition filed under
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    this subsection only after ten (10) days' prior written notice to
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    the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his designated agent, or the
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    attorney designated to represent the state. At such hearing, the
    court may enter an order reducing the period of suspension.
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         The order entered under the provisions of this subsection
    shall contain the specific grounds upon which hardship was
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    determined, and shall order the petitioner to attend and complete
    an alcohol safety education program as provided in Section
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    63-11-32. A certified copy of such order shall be delivered to
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    the Commissioner of Public Safety by the clerk of the court within
    five (5) days of the entry of the order. The certified copy of
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    such order shall contain information which will identify the
    petitioner, including, but not limited to, the name, mailing
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    address, street address, social security number and driver's
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    license number of the petitioner.
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         At any time following at least thirty (30) days of suspension
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    for a first offense violation of this section, the court may grant
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the person hardship driving privileges upon written petition of

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the defendant, if it finds reasonable cause to believe that
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     revocation would hinder the person's ability to:
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                    (i) Continue his employment;
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                    (ii) Continue attending school or an educational
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     institution; or
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                    (iii) Obtain necessary medical care.
          Proof of the hardship shall be established by clear and
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     convincing evidence which shall be supported by independent
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     documentation.
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                    Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3),
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     upon any second conviction of any person violating subsection (1)
     of this section, the offenses being committed within a period of
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     five (5) years, such person shall be fined not less than Six
     Hundred Dollars ($600.00) nor more than One Thousand Five Hundred
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     Dollars ($1,500.00), shall be imprisoned not less than five (5)
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     days nor more than one (1) year and sentenced to community service
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     work for not less than ten (10) days nor more than one (1) year.
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     The minimum penalties shall not be suspended or reduced by the
     court and no prosecutor shall offer any suspension or sentence
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     reduction as part of a plea bargain.
                                            Except as may otherwise be
     provided by paragraph (d) of this subsection, the Commissioner of
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     Public Safety shall suspend the driver's license of such person
     for two (2) years. Suspension of a commercial driver's license
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     shall be governed by Section 63-1-83. Upon any second conviction
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     as described in this paragraph, the court shall ascertain whether
     the defendant is married, and if the defendant is married shall
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     obtain the name and address of the defendant's spouse; the clerk
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     of the court shall submit this information to the Department of
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     Public Safety. Further, the commissioner shall notify in writing,
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     by certified mail, return receipt requested, the owner of the
     vehicle and the spouse, if any, of the person convicted of the
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second violation of the possibility of forfeiture of the vehicle

if such person is convicted of a third violation of subsection (1)

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The owner of the vehicle and the spouse shall be
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     of this section.
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     considered notified under this paragraph if the notice is
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     deposited in the United States mail and any claim that the notice
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     was not in fact received by the addressee shall not affect a
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     subsequent forfeiture proceeding.
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          For any second or subsequent conviction of any person under
     this section, the person shall also be subject to the penalties
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     set forth in Section 63-11-31.
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                    Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), for
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               (C)
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     any third or subsequent conviction of any person violating
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     subsection (1) of this section, the offenses being committed
     within a period of five (5) years, such person shall be guilty of
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     a felony and fined not less than Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000.00)
     nor more than Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00), shall be
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     imprisoned not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5) years
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     in the State Penitentiary. In addition to the foregoing
     penalties, the sentencing court shall order forfeiture of the
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     vehicle owned and operated by the convicted person at the time of
     the third or subsequent offense. The order shall order the
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     vehicle forfeited to the law enforcement agency which seized the
     vehicle. The court shall forward a copy of the forfeiture order
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     to the law enforcement agency which seized the vehicle.
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     minimum penalties shall not be suspended or reduced by the court
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     and no prosecutor shall offer any suspension or sentence reduction
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     as part of a plea bargain. The law enforcement agency shall seize
     the vehicle operated by any person charged with a third or
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     subsequent violation of subsection (1) of this section, if such
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     convicted person was driving the vehicle at the time the offense
     was committed. * * * Except as may otherwise be provided by
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     paragraph (e) of this subsection, the Commissioner of Public
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     Safety shall suspend the driver's license of such person for five
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     (5) years. The suspension of a commercial driver's license shall
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be governed by Section 63-1-83.

161 (d) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), any 162 person convicted of a second violation of subsection (1) of this 163 section shall receive an in-depth diagnostic assessment, and if as 164 a result of such assessment is determined to be in need of 165 treatment of his alcohol and/or drug abuse problem, such person 166 shall successfully complete treatment of his alcohol and/or drug abuse problem at a program site certified by the Department of 167 168 Mental Health. Such person shall be eligible for reinstatement of 169 his driving privileges upon the successful completion of such treatment after a period of one (1) year after such person's 170 171 driver's license is suspended. Each person who receives a diagnostic assessment shall pay a fee representing the cost of 172 173 such assessment. Each person who participates in a treatment 174 program shall pay a fee representing the cost of such treatment. 175 Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), any person convicted of a third or subsequent violation of subsection 176 177 (1) of this section shall receive an in-depth diagnostic 178 assessment, and if as a result of such assessment is determined to be in need of treatment of his alcohol and/or drug abuse problem, 179 180 such person shall enter an alcohol and/or drug abuse program approved by the Department of Mental Health for treatment of such 181 182 person's alcohol and/or drug abuse problem. If such person 183 successfully completes such treatment, such person shall be eligible for reinstatement of his driving privileges after a 184 185 period of three (3) years after such person's driver's license is 186 suspended. 187 The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate rules and regulations for the use of interlock ignition devices as 188 provided in Section 63-11-31 and consistent with the provisions 189

use of such systems shall be borne by the offender.

therein. Such rules and regulations shall provide for the

calibration of such devices and shall provide that the cost of the

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- 193 Department of Public Safety shall approve which vendors of such 194 devices shall be used to furnish such systems.
- 195 (3) (a) This subsection shall be known and may be cited as
- 196 Zero Tolerance for Minors. The provisions of this subsection
- 197 shall apply only when a person under the age of twenty-one (21)
- 198 years has a blood alcohol concentration two one-hundredths percent
- 199 (.02%) or more, but lower than eight one-hundredths percent
- 200 (.08%). If such person's blood alcohol concentration is eight
- 201 one-hundredths percent (.08%) or more, the provisions of
- 202 subsection (2) shall apply.
- 203 (b) Upon conviction of any person under the age of
- 204 twenty-one (21) years for the first offense of violating
- 205 subsection (1) of this section where chemical tests provided for
- 206 under Section 63-11-5 were given, or where chemical test results
- 207 are not available, such person shall have his driver's license
- 208 suspended for ninety (90) days and shall be fined Two Hundred
- 209 Fifty Dollars (\$250.00); and the court shall order such person to
- 210 attend and complete an alcohol safety education program as
- 211 provided in Section 63-11-32. The court may also require
- 212 attendance at a victim impact panel.
- 213 The circuit court having jurisdiction in the county in which
- 214 the conviction was had or the circuit court of the person's county
- 215 of residence may reduce the suspension of driving privileges under
- 216 Section 63-11-30(2)(a) if the denial of which would constitute a
- 217 hardship on the offender, except that no court may issue such an
- 218 order reducing the suspension of driving privileges under this
- 219 subsection until thirty (30) days have elapsed from the effective
- 220 date of the suspension. Hardships shall only apply to first
- offenses under Section 63-11-30(1), and shall not apply to second,
- 222 third or subsequent convictions of any person violating subsection
- 223 (1) of this section. A reduction of suspension on the basis of
- 224 hardship shall not be available to any person who refused to
- 225 submit to a chemical test upon the request of a law enforcement

officer as provided in Section 63-11-5. When the petition is 226 227 filed, such person shall pay to the circuit clerk of the court 228 where the petition is filed a fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), which 229 shall be deposited into the State General Fund to the credit of a 230 special fund hereby created in the State Treasury to be used for 231 alcohol or drug abuse treatment and education, upon appropriation by the Legislature. This fee shall be in addition to any other 232 court costs or fees required for the filing of petitions. 233 The petition filed under the provisions of this subsection 234 235 shall contain the specific facts which the petitioner alleges to 236 constitute a hardship and the driver's license number of the petitioner. A hearing may be held on any petition filed under 237 238 this subsection only after ten (10) days' prior written notice to the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his designated agent, or the 239 attorney designated to represent the state. At such hearing, the 240 241 court may enter an order reducing the period of suspension. 242 The order entered under the provisions of this subsection 243 shall contain the specific grounds upon which hardship was determined, and shall order the petitioner to attend and complete 244 245 an alcohol safety education program as provided in Section 246 63-11-32. A certified copy of such order shall be delivered to 247 the Commissioner of Public Safety by the clerk of the court within 248 five (5) days of the entry of the order. The certified copy of 249 such order shall contain information which will identify the 250 petitioner, including, but not limited to, the name, mailing address, street address, social security number and driver's 251 252 license number of the petitioner. At any time following at least thirty (30) days of suspension 253 254 for a first offense violation of this section, the court may grant 255 the person hardship driving privileges upon written petition of the defendant, if it finds reasonable cause to believe that 256 257 revocation would hinder the person's ability to: 258 (i) Continue his employment;

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259	(ii)	Continue	attending	school	or	an	educational

260 institution; or

261 (iii) Obtain necessary medical care.

262 Proof of the hardship shall be established by clear and

263 convincing evidence which shall be supported by independent

264 documentation.

265 (c) Upon any second conviction of any person under the

266 age of twenty-one (21) years violating subsection (1) of this

267 section, the offenses being committed within a period of five (5)

268 years, such person shall be fined not more than Five Hundred

Dollars (\$500.00) and shall have his driver's license suspended

270 for one (1) year.

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(d) For any third or subsequent conviction of any

272 person under the age of twenty-one (21) years violating subsection

273 (1) of this section, the offenses being committed within a period

of five (5) years, such person shall be fined not more than One

275 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and shall have his driver's license

suspended until he reaches the age of twenty-one (21) or for two

277 (2) years, whichever is longer.

(e) Any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years

279 convicted of a second violation of subsection (1) of this section,

280 may have the period that his driver's license is suspended reduced

281 if such person receives an in-depth diagnostic assessment, and as

282 a result of such assessment is determined to be in need of

283 treatment of his alcohol and/or drug abuse problem and

284 successfully completes treatment of his alcohol and/or drug abuse

285 problem at a program site certified by the Department of Mental

286 Health. Such person shall be eligible for reinstatement of his

287 driving privileges upon the successful completion of such

288 treatment after a period of six (6) months after such person's

289 driver's license is suspended. Each person who receives a

290 diagnostic assessment shall pay a fee representing the cost of

- 291 such assessment. Each person who participates in a treatment 292 program shall pay a fee representing the cost of such treatment.
- 293 (f) Any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years 294 convicted of a third or subsequent violation of subsection (1) of
- 295 this section shall complete treatment of an alcohol and/or drug
- 296 abuse program at a site certified by the Department of Mental
- 297 Health.
- 298 (g) The court shall have the discretion to rule that a
- 299 first offense of this subsection by a person under the age of
- 300 twenty-one (21) years shall be nonadjudicated. Such person shall
- 301 be eligible for nonadjudication only once. The Department of
- 302 Public Safety shall maintain a confidential registry of all cases
- 303 which are nonadjudicated as provided in this paragraph. A judge
- 304 who rules that a case is nonadjudicated shall forward such ruling
- 305 to the Department of Public Safety. Judges and prosecutors
- 306 involved in implied consent violations shall have access to the
- 307 confidential registry for the purpose of determining
- 308 nonadjudication eligibility. A record of a person who has been
- 309 nonadjudicated shall be maintained for five (5) years or until
- 310 such person reaches the age of twenty-one (21) years. Any person
- 311 whose confidential record has been disclosed in violation of this
- 312 paragraph shall have a civil cause of action against the person
- 313 and/or agency responsible for such disclosure.
- 314 (4) In addition to the other penalties provided in this
- 315 section, every person refusing a law enforcement officer's request
- 316 to submit to a chemical test of his breath as provided in this
- 317 chapter, or who was unconscious at the time of a chemical test and
- 318 refused to consent to the introduction of the results of such test
- 319 in any prosecution, shall suffer an additional suspension of
- 320 driving privileges as follows:
- 321 The Commissioner of Public Safety or his authorized agent
- 322 shall suspend the driver's license or permit to drive or deny the
- 323 issuance of a license or permit to such person as provided for

- first, second and third or subsequent offenders in subsection (2) 324
- 325 of this section. Such suspension shall be in addition to any
- 326 suspension imposed pursuant to subsection (1) of Section 63-11-23.
- 327 The minimum suspension imposed under this subsection shall not be
- 328 reduced and no prosecutor is authorized to offer a reduction of
- 329 such suspension as part of a plea bargain.
- Every person who operates any motor vehicle in violation 330 (5)
- 331 of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section and who in a
- negligent manner causes the death of another or mutilates, 332
- 333 disfigures, permanently disables or destroys the tongue, eye, lip,
- 334 nose or any other limb, organ or member of another shall, upon
- conviction, be guilty of a felony and shall be committed to the 335
- 336 custody of the State Department of Corrections for a period of
- 337 time of not less than five (5) years and not to exceed twenty-five
- 338 (25) years.
- (6) Upon conviction of any violation of subsection (1) of 339
- 340 this section, the trial judge shall sign in the place provided on
- 341 the traffic ticket, citation or affidavit stating that the person
- arrested either employed an attorney or waived his right to an 342
- 343 attorney after having been properly advised. If the person
- arrested employed an attorney, the name, address and telephone 344
- 345 number of the attorney shall be written on the ticket, citation or
- 346 affidavit. The judge shall cause a copy of the traffic ticket,
- citation or affidavit, and any other pertinent documents 347
- 348 concerning the conviction, to be sent to the Commissioner of
- Public Safety. A copy of the traffic ticket, citation or 349
- 350 affidavit and any other pertinent documents, having been attested
- 351 as true and correct by the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his
- designee, shall be sufficient proof of the conviction for purposes 352
- 353 of determining the enhanced penalty for any subsequent convictions
- of violations of subsection (1) of this section. 354
- 355 Convictions in other states of violations for driving or
- 356 operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicating

- 357 liquor or while under the influence of any other substance that
- 358 has impaired the person's ability to operate a motor vehicle
- 359 occurring after July 1, 1992, shall be counted for the purposes of
- 360 determining if a violation of subsection (1) of this section is a
- 361 first, second, third or subsequent offense and the penalty that
- 362 shall be imposed upon conviction for a violation of subsection (1)
- 363 of this section.
- 364 (8) For the purposes of determining how to impose the
- 365 sentence for a second, third or subsequent conviction under this
- 366 section, the indictment shall not be required to enumerate
- 367 previous convictions. It shall only be necessary that the
- 368 indictment state the number of times that the defendant has been
- 369 convicted and sentenced within the past five (5) years under this
- 370 section to determine if an enhanced penalty shall be imposed. The
- 371 amount of fine and imprisonment imposed in previous convictions
- 372 shall not be considered in calculating offenses to determine a
- 373 second, third or subsequent offense of this section.
- 374 (9) Any person under the legal age to obtain a license to
- 375 operate a motor vehicle convicted under this section shall not be
- 376 eligible to receive such license until the person reaches the age
- 377 of eighteen (18) years.
- 378 (10) Suspension of driving privileges for any person
- 379 convicted of violations of Section 63-11-30(1) shall run
- 380 consecutively.
- 381 (11) The court may order the use of any ignition interlock
- 382 device as provided in Section 63-11-31.
- SECTION 2. Section 63-11-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 384 amended as follows:
- 385 63-11-49. (1) When a vehicle is seized under Section
- $386 \quad 63-11-30(2)(c)$ or (d), the arresting officer shall impound the
- 387 vehicle and the vehicle shall be held as evidence until a court of
- 388 competent jurisdiction makes a final disposition of the case and

- 389 the vehicle shall be forfeited * * * as provided in Section
- 390 63-11-30(2)(c).
- 391 (2) When a vehicle is forfeited pursuant to a conviction for
- 392 a third or subsequent offense DUI, the convicted person, if
- 393 appealing the conviction, may request the trial court in its
- 394 discretion to order a stay of forfeiture pending appeal.
- 395 (3) Vehicles forfeited pursuant to Section 63-11-30(2)(c)
- 396 shall be disposed of as provided in Section 63-11-53.
- 397 * * *
- 398 SECTION 3. Section 63-11-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 399 amended as follows:
- 400 63-11-53. (1) All money derived from the seizure and
- 401 forfeiture of vehicles under Section 63-11-30(2)(c) and (d) and
- 402 Section 63-11-49 * * * by the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol
- 403 shall be forwarded to the State Treasurer and deposited in a
- 404 special fund which is hereby created for use by the Department of
- 405 Public Safety upon appropriation by the Legislature. Unexpended
- 406 amounts remaining in such special fund at the end of a fiscal year
- 407 shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest
- 408 earned on amounts in such special fund shall be deposited to the
- 409 credit of the special fund. All other law enforcement agencies
- 410 shall establish a special fund which is to be used for law
- 411 enforcement purposes to purchase equipment for the law enforcement
- 412 agency, and any interest earned on the amount in such special fund
- 413 shall be deposited to the credit of the special fund.
- 414 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), all
- 415 vehicles that have been forfeited shall be sold at a public
- 416 auction for cash by the law enforcement agency or its agent to the
- 417 highest and best bidder * * *. The proceeds of the sale, * * *
- 418 after deduction of all storage, towing, court costs and expenses
- 419 of liquidation shall be deposited in the manner described in
- 420 subsection (1) of this section.

421 The law enforcement agency may maintain, repair, use and 422 operate for official purposes all vehicles that have been 423 forfeited if the vehicles are free from any interest of a bona 424 fide lienholder, secured party or other party who holds an 425 interest in the nature of a security interest. The agency may 426 purchase the interest of a bona fide lienholder, secured party or other party who holds an interest so that the vehicle can be 427 428 released for its use. If the vehicle is susceptible of titling 429 under the Mississippi Motor Vehicle Title Law, the agency shall be deemed to be the purchaser, and the certificate of title shall be 430 431 issued to it as required by subsection (4) of this section. The State Tax Commission shall issue a certificate of 432 433 title to any person who purchases vehicles under the provisions of 434 this section when a certificate of title is required under the 435 laws of this state. SECTION 4. Any vehicle seized pursuant to Sections 436 63-11-30(2)(c) and 63-11-49 which is not forfeited may be released 437 438 to the owner or lienholder upon receipt of payment for all storage and towing charges incurred by the law enforcement agency in 439 440 seizing the vehicle. The seizing law enforcement agency shall 441 notify in writing, by first class mail, the owner or lienholder at 442 the owner's or lienholder's last known address that the owner or 443 lienholder may retrieve the vehicle. In the event the owner or 444 lienholder do not claim the vehicle within thirty (30) days from 445 the date of mailing of the notice, the vehicle shall be sold at public auction. The owner of the vehicle or the lienholder shall 446 447 be considered notified under this paragraph if the notice is 448 deposited in the United States mail and any claim that the notice 449 was not in fact received by the addressee shall not affect sale or 450 disposition of the vehicle. Any vehicle retrieved by a lienholder

subsequent offense of Section 63-11-30.

shall not be returned to the person charged with the third or

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- SECTION 5. Section 63-11-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
- 454 provides for the institution of forfeiture proceedings, is
- 455 repealed.
- 456 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 457 and after July 1, 2001.