



Traffic Safety Bulletin

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY

MARCH 2010, BULLETIN NUMBER 9

RICCI'S LAW • JANUARY 14, 2010

On January 14, 2010, Acting Governor Stephen M. Sweeney signed Ricci's Law, which amends **R.S.39:4-50**, by revising the ignition interlock device requirements for certain drunk driving offenders. This law is in memory of Ricci Branca, a 17-year-old teenager from Egg Harbor Township, who died after being struck by a drunk driver while riding his bike with a group of friends. The driver of the vehicle registered a blood alcohol concentration of .339%, more than four times the legal limit. The full text of the law can be found at: http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2008/Bills/AL09/201_.PDF

OVERVIEW OF P.L. 2009, CHAPTER 201

- 1. First offenders** whose blood alcohol concentration is **0.15% or higher** or who are convicted of **refusing the breath test** must install, during the license suspension period associated with this offense, an ignition interlock device in any motor vehicle they principally operate. In addition, the device must remain installed for a period of **six months to one year after** the restoration of the driver's license.
- 2.** Persons convicted of a **second or subsequent** drunk driving offense must install, during the license suspension period associated with this offense, an ignition interlock device in any motor vehicle they principally operate. In addition, the device must remain installed for a period of **one to three years after** the **restoration** of the driver's license.
- 3.** Any person may start a motor vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock device for safety reasons or to repair the device or the motor vehicle, but the convicted offender **may not operate** the vehicle.
- 4.** A person who, on behalf of the convicted offender, blows into an interlock device to start a motor vehicle or tampers with the device to circumvent its operation, may be charged with a disorderly persons offense.
- 5. This law became effective on January 14, 2010.**



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