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Testimony of Rep. Stephan Bunker introducing LD 96, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles and Traffic Law Governing Mandatory Driver's License Suspension for Refusing Testing for Drugs or a Combination of Drugs and Alcohol

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Good afternoon Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and colleagues on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. I am Stephan Bunker and I represent House District 75. I am here to present LD 96, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles and Traffic Law Governing Mandatory Driver's License Suspension for Refusing Testing for Drugs or a Combination of Drugs and Alcohol.

What this bill does is amend the provision of the motor vehicles and traffic law governing administrative suspension of driver's licenses upon the failure of the driver to submit to and complete testing when the duty to do so is present. A driver has a duty to submit to and complete a test to determine an alcohol level and the presence of a drug or drug metabolite when a law enforcement officer has probable cause that the driver has operated a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicants. Depending on the specific probable cause of impairment, the duty to submit to and complete testing may involve alcohol, drugs or a combination of alcohol and drugs. This bill also clarifies that any driver who has a duty to submit to and complete such testing, who fails to, must immediately have their license suspended by the Secretary of State.

Lauren Stewart, Director of the Bureau of Highway Safety, is here with us today and I will let her speak in more detail on this. There is also a proposed amendment that I included with this testimony.

Thank you for your time.