

848--A

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 5, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. WEISENBERG, COLTON, SPANO, MAISEL, STEVENSON, SCHIMEL, ZEBROWSKI, LAVINE, COOK -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. GALEF, GIBSON, P. RIVERA, SWEENEY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the definitions of the terms "impaired" and "intoxication" for the purposes of such law

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 119-b of the vehicle and traffic law is renumbered
2 119-c and a new section 119-b is added to read as follows:

3 S 119-B. IMPAIRED. IMPAIRMENT IS REACHED WHEN A DRIVER HAS VOLUNTARILY
4 CONSUMED OR INGESTED A SUBSTANCE OR COMBINATION OF SUBSTANCES TO THE
5 EXTENT THAT THE DRIVER HAS IMPAIRED, TO ANY EXTENT, THE PHYSICAL AND
6 MENTAL ABILITIES WHICH A DRIVER IS EXPECTED TO POSSESS IN ORDER TO OPER-
7 ATE A VEHICLE AS A REASONABLE AND PRUDENT DRIVER.

8 S 2. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section
9 120-a to read as follows:

10 S 120-A. INTOXICATION. INTOXICATION IS A GREATER DEGREE OF IMPAIRMENT
11 WHICH IS REACHED WHEN A DRIVER HAS VOLUNTARILY CONSUMED OR INGESTED A
12 SUBSTANCE OR COMBINATION OF SUBSTANCES TO THE EXTENT THAT THE DRIVER IS
13 INCAPABLE OF EMPLOYING THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ABILITIES WHICH A DRIVER
14 IS EXPECTED TO POSSESS IN ORDER TO OPERATE A VEHICLE AS A REASONABLE AND
15 PRUDENT DRIVER.

16 S 3. Section 1192 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding
17 a new subdivision 13 to read as follows:

18 13. IT SHALL BE AN AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE TO A CHARGE UNDER ANY SUBDIVI-
19 SION OF THIS SECTION THAT THE OPERATOR NEITHER KNEW NOR HAD REASON TO
20 KNOW OF THE IMPAIRING NATURE OF THE SUBSTANCE OR COMBINATION OF

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 SUBSTANCES CONSUMED OR INGESTED. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO DEFENSE
2 SHALL BE AVAILABLE IF ANY SUCH CONSUMED OR INGESTED SUBSTANCE IS
3 CONTAINED IN SECTION THIRTY-THREE HUNDRED SIX OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW.
4 S 4. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeed-
5 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.