

6491

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

April 4, 2013

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Introduced by M. of A. CUSICK -- read once and referred to the Committee  
on Transportation

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

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

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