

4649

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 1, 2015

Introduced by Sen. MARTINS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the crime of aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle

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

1 Section 1. Section 511 of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by
2 chapter 756 of the laws of 1985, paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 as
3 amended and paragraph (c) of subdivision 1 as added by chapter 173 of
4 the laws of 1990, paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 and paragraphs (a) and
5 (b) of subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 607 of the laws of 1993,
6 subdivisions 2 and 3 as amended by chapter 420 of the laws of 1989,
7 subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 as amended by chap-
8 ter 196 of the laws of 1996, paragraph (a) of subdivision 3 as amended
9 by chapter 732 of the laws of 2006, subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (a)
10 of subdivision 3 as amended and subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (a) of
11 subdivision 3 as added by chapter 169 of the laws of 2013, paragraph (b)
12 of subdivision 3 as separately amended by chapters 786 and 892 of the
13 laws of 1990, and subdivision 7 as amended by section 3 of part P of
14 chapter 59 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

15 S 511. Operation while license or privilege is suspended or revoked;
16 aggravated unlicensed operation. 1. Aggravated unlicensed operation of a
17 motor vehicle in the [third] FIFTH degree. (a) A person is guilty of the
18 offense of aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the
19 [third] FIFTH degree when such person operates a motor vehicle upon a
20 public highway while knowing or having reason to know that such person's
21 license or privilege of operating such motor vehicle in this state or
22 privilege of obtaining a license to operate such motor vehicle issued by
23 the commissioner is suspended, revoked or otherwise withdrawn by the
24 commissioner.

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

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1 (b) Aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the [third]
2 FIFTH degree is a misdemeanor. When a person is convicted of this
3 offense, the sentence of the court must be: (i) a fine of not less than
4 two hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars; [or] AND/OR (ii)
5 a term of imprisonment of not more than thirty days; or (iii) [both such
6 fine and imprisonment] WHERE APPROPRIATE A SENTENCE OF CONDITIONAL
7 DISCHARGE OR PROBATION AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION SEVEN OF THIS SECTION.

8 (c) When a person is convicted of this offense with respect to the
9 operation of a motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of more
10 than eighteen thousand pounds, the sentence of the court must be: (i) a
11 fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than fifteen hundred
12 dollars; [or] AND/OR (ii) a term of imprisonment of not more than thirty
13 days; or (iii) [both such fine and imprisonment] WHERE APPROPRIATE A
14 SENTENCE OF CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE OR PROBATION AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVI-
15 SION SEVEN OF THIS SECTION; OR (IV) A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT AS A CONDI-
16 TION OF A SENTENCE OF PROBATION AS PROVIDED IN THE PENAL LAW AND
17 CONSISTENT WITH THIS SECTION.

18 2. Aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the [second]
19 FOURTH degree. (a) A person is guilty of the offense of aggravated unli-
20 censed operation of a motor vehicle in the [second] FOURTH degree when
21 such person commits the offense of aggravated unlicensed operation of a
22 motor vehicle in the [third] FIFTH degree as defined in subdivision one
23 of this section; and

24 (i) has previously been convicted of, OR ADJUDICATED A YOUTHFUL OFFEN-
25 DER FOR, an offense that consists of or includes the elements comprising
26 the offense committed within the immediately preceding eighteen months;
27 or

28 (ii) the suspension or revocation is based upon a refusal to submit to
29 a chemical test pursuant to section eleven hundred ninety-four of this
30 chapter OR THE PROVISIONS OF ANY OTHER JURISDICTION, a finding of driv-
31 ing after having consumed alcohol in violation of section eleven hundred
32 ninety-two-a of this chapter or upon a conviction for, OR AN ADJUDI-
33 CATION AS A YOUTHFUL OFFENDER FOR, a violation of any of the provisions
34 of section eleven hundred ninety-two of this chapter OR THE PROVISIONS
35 OF ANY OTHER JURISDICTION PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH CONDUCT, HAD IT
36 OCCURRED IN THIS STATE, WOULD HAVE CONSTITUTED A MISDEMEANOR OR FELONY
37 VIOLATION OF SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED NINETY-TWO OF THIS CHAPTER; or

38 (iii) the suspension was a mandatory suspension pending prosecution of
39 a charge of a violation of section eleven hundred ninety-two of this
40 chapter ordered pursuant to paragraph (e) of subdivision two of section
41 eleven hundred ninety-three of this chapter or other similar statute IN
42 THIS, OR ANY OTHER JURISDICTION; or

43 (iv) such person has in effect three or more suspensions, imposed on
44 at least three separate dates, for failure to answer, appear or pay a
45 fine, pursuant to subdivision three of section two hundred twenty-six or
46 subdivision four-a of section five hundred ten of this chapter.

47 (b) Aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the [second]
48 FOURTH degree is a misdemeanor. When a person is convicted of this crime
49 under subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the
50 sentence of the court must be: (i) a fine of not less than five hundred
51 dollars; and (ii) a term of imprisonment not to exceed one hundred
52 eighty days; or (iii) where appropriate a sentence of probation as
53 provided in subdivision [six] SEVEN of this section; or (iv) a term of
54 imprisonment as a condition of a sentence of probation as provided in
55 the penal law and consistent with this section. When a person is
56 convicted of this crime under subparagraph (ii), (iii) or (iv) of para-

1 graph (a) of this subdivision, the sentence of the court must be: (i) a
2 fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand
3 dollars; and (ii) a term of imprisonment of not less than seven days nor
4 more than one hundred eighty days, or (iii) where appropriate a sentence
5 of probation as provided in subdivision [six] SEVEN of this section; or
6 (iv) a term of imprisonment as a condition of a sentence of probation as
7 provided in the penal law and consistent with this section.

8 3. Aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the [first]
9 THIRD degree. (a) A person is guilty of the offense of aggravated unli-
10 censed operation of a motor vehicle in the [first] THIRD degree when
11 such person: (i) commits the offense of aggravated unlicensed operation
12 of a motor vehicle in the [second] FOURTH degree as provided in subpara-
13 graph (ii), (iii) or (iv) of paragraph (a) of subdivision two of this
14 section and is operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of
15 alcohol or a drug in violation of subdivision one, two, two-a, three,
16 four, four-a or five of section eleven hundred ninety-two of this chap-
17 ter; or

18 (ii) commits the offense of aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor
19 vehicle in the [third] FIFTH degree as defined in subdivision one of
20 this section; and is operating a motor vehicle while such person has in
21 effect ten or more suspensions, imposed on at least ten separate dates
22 for failure to answer, appear or pay a fine, pursuant to subdivision
23 three of section two hundred twenty-six of this chapter or subdivision
24 four-a of section five hundred ten of this article; or

25 (iii) commits the offense of aggravated unlicensed operation of a
26 motor vehicle in the [third] FIFTH degree as defined in subdivision one
27 of this section; and is operating a motor vehicle while under permanent
28 revocation as set forth in subparagraph twelve of paragraph (b) of
29 subdivision two of section eleven hundred ninety-three of this chapter;
30 or

31 (iv) operates a motor vehicle upon a public highway while holding a
32 conditional license issued pursuant to paragraph (a) of subdivision
33 seven of section eleven hundred ninety-six of this chapter while under
34 the influence of alcohol or a drug in violation of subdivision one, two,
35 two-a, three, four, four-a or five of section eleven hundred ninety-two
36 of this chapter; OR

37 (V) WHEN SUCH PERSON OPERATES A MOTOR VEHICLE UPON A PUBLIC HIGHWAY
38 AFTER SUCH PERSON'S APPLICATION FOR RELICENSING HAS BEEN DENIED PURSUANT
39 TO 15 NYCRR 136.5(B)(1) OR (2) OR WHEN SUCH OPERATION OCCURS WITHIN THE
40 PERIOD OF REAPPLICATION DELAY IMPOSED BY THE COMMISSIONER PURSUANT TO 15
41 NYCRR 136.5(B)(3) OR (4).

42 (b) Aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the [first]
43 THIRD degree is a class E felony. When a person is convicted of this
44 crime, the sentence of the court must be: (i) a fine in an amount not
45 less than five hundred dollars nor more than five thousand dollars; and
46 (ii) a term of imprisonment as provided in the penal law, or (iii) where
47 appropriate and a term of imprisonment is not required by the penal law,
48 a sentence of probation as provided in subdivision [six] SEVEN of this
49 section, or (iv) a term of imprisonment as a condition of a sentence of
50 probation as provided in the penal law.

51 4. AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IN THE SECOND
52 DEGREE. (A) A PERSON IS GUILTY OF THE OFFENSE OF AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED
53 OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IN THE SECOND DEGREE WHEN SUCH PERSON
54 COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHI-
55 CLE IN THE FIFTH DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION
56 AND BY OPERATION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE, SUCH PERSON CAUSES SERIOUS PHYS-

1 ICAL INJURY, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION TEN OF SECTION 10.00 OF THE PENAL
2 LAW, TO ANOTHER PERSON.

3 (B) AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IN THE SECOND
4 DEGREE IS A CLASS E FELONY. WHEN A PERSON IS CONVICTED OF THIS CRIME,
5 THE SENTENCE OF THE COURT MUST BE: (I) A FINE IN AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN
6 FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS NOR MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS; AND (II) A
7 TERM OF IMPRISONMENT AS PROVIDED IN THE PENAL LAW, OR (III) WHERE APPRO-
8 PRIATE, AND A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT IS NOT REQUIRED BY THE PENAL LAW, A
9 SENTENCE OF PROBATION AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION SEVEN OF THIS SECTION,
10 OR (IV) A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT AS A CONDITION OF A SENTENCE OF PROBATION
11 AS PROVIDED IN THE PENAL LAW.

12 5. AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IN THE FIRST
13 DEGREE. (A) A PERSON IS GUILTY OF THE OFFENSE OF AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED
14 OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IN THE FIRST DEGREE WHEN SUCH PERSON
15 COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHI-
16 CLE IN THE FIFTH DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION
17 AND BY OPERATION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE, SUCH PERSON CAUSES THE DEATH OF
18 ANOTHER PERSON.

19 (B) AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IN THE FIRST
20 DEGREE IS A CLASS D FELONY. WHEN A PERSON IS CONVICTED OF THIS CRIME,
21 THE SENTENCE OF THE COURT MUST BE: (I) A FINE IN AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN
22 ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS NOR MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS; AND (II) A
23 TERM OF IMPRISONMENT AS PROVIDED IN THE PENAL LAW, OR (III) WHERE APPRO-
24 PRIATE AND A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT IS NOT REQUIRED BY THE PENAL LAW, A
25 SENTENCE OF PROBATION AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION SEVEN OF THIS SECTION,
26 OR (IV) A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT AS A CONDITION OF A SENTENCE OF PROBATION
27 AS PROVIDED IN THE PENAL LAW.

28 6. Defense. In any prosecution under this section or section five
29 hundred eleven-a of this chapter, it is a defense that the person oper-
30 ating the motor vehicle has at the time of the offense a license issued
31 by a foreign country, state, territory or federal district, which
32 license is valid for operation in this state in accordance with the
33 provisions of section two hundred fifty of this chapter.

34 [5.] 7. Limitation on pleas. Where an accusatory instrument charges a
35 violation of this section, any plea of guilty entered in satisfaction of
36 such charge must include at least a plea of guilty of one of the
37 offenses defined by this section and no other disposition by plea of
38 guilty to any other charge in satisfaction of such charge shall be
39 authorized; provided, however, that if the district attorney upon
40 reviewing the available evidence determines that the charge of a
41 violation of this section is not warranted, he may set forth upon the
42 record the basis for such determination and consent to a disposition by
43 plea of guilty to another charge in satisfaction of such charge, and the
44 court may accept such plea.

45 [6.] 8. Sentence of probation. In any case where a sentence of
46 probation is authorized by this section, the court may in its discretion
47 impose such sentence, provided however, if the court is of the opinion
48 that a program of alcohol or drug treatment may be effective in assist-
49 ing in prevention of future offenses of a similar nature upon imposing
50 such sentence, the court shall require as a condition of the sentence
51 that the defendant participate in such a program.

52 [7.] 9. Exceptions. When a person is convicted of a violation of
53 subdivision one or two of this section, and the suspension was issued
54 pursuant to (a) subdivision four-e of section five hundred ten of this
55 article due to a support arrears, or (b) subdivision four-f of section
56 five hundred ten of the article due to past-due tax liabilities, the

1 mandatory penalties set forth in subdivision one or two of this section
2 shall not be applicable if, on or before the return date or subsequent
3 adjourned date, such person presents proof that such support arrears or
4 past-due tax liabilities have been satisfied as shown by certified
5 check, notice issued by the court ordering the suspension, or notice
6 from a support collection unit or department of taxation and finance as
7 applicable. The sentencing court shall take the satisfaction of arrears
8 or the payment of the past-due tax liabilities into account when impos-
9 ing a sentence for any such conviction. For licenses suspended for non-
10 payment of past-due tax liabilities, the court shall also take into
11 consideration proof, in the form of a notice from the department of
12 taxation and finance, that such person has made payment arrangements
13 that are satisfactory to the commissioner of taxation and finance.

14 S 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
15 have become a law.