

STATE OF NEW YORK

5875

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 3, 2025

Introduced by Sen. LANZA -- 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 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. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new
2 section 119-c to read as follows:

3 § 119-c. 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 § 2. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section
9 120-a to read as follows:

10 § 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 § 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 suffered an allergic reaction or
20 medical emergency rather than being impaired by the substance or combi-
21 nation of substances. Provided, however, that no defense shall be
22 available if any such consumed or ingested substance is contained in
23 section thirty-three hundred six of the public health law.

24 § 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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