

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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This bill sets increased penalties for some repeated offense, injury and death situations where a person operates a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license (which under current law is generally a misdemeanor). It:

- makes it a gross misdemeanor for operating without a valid license if the person causes a collision resulting in substantial bodily harm (which is a temporary but substantial loss, impairment, fracture, or disfigurement) or a person's death;
- makes it a gross misdemeanor for a third or subsequent operating without a valid license conviction within a ten-year period; and
- sets minimum fines, with a provision for community service in cases of financial hardship, of (1) \$750 for a second conviction, and (2) \$1,500 for third or subsequent convictions.

The bill also permits, in addition to conviction under the section of statutes on driving without a valid license, conviction for other violations arising from the driving conduct.

Misdemeanors are punishable by up to 90 days imprisonment and a fine of up to \$1,000 (or both).

Gross misdemeanors are punishable by up to one year imprisonment and a fine of up to \$3,000 (or both).