HOUSE RESEARCH

- Bill Summary -

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Subject: Driving without a valid license penalties

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This bill enhances the penalties for driving without a valid license under some circumstances. Under current law, it is generally a misdemeanor to drive after a license has been suspended, revoked, or canceled, or after the person is disqualified for or denied a commercial driver's license. The bill makes it a gross misdemeanor if the person drives after loss of driving privileges and:

- causes a crash resulting in substantial bodily harm or death; or
- commits the violation for a third or subsequent time within ten years and, at the time of the current violation, the loss of driving privileges was due to (1) committing one of the listed driving offenses, (2) being an habitual offender, (3) having been found to be incompetent or unsafe to drive a motor vehicle, or (4) being classified as legally blind or having a vision impairment.

The provision would go into effect August 1, 2018, for offenses committed on or after that date.