HOUSE RESEARCH

= Bill Summary =

File Number: H.F. 192 Date: February 2, 2017

Version: As introduced

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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.

The bill also sets minimum fine amounts on repeat offenses, at \$750 for a second conviction and \$1,500 for third or subsequent convictions (which apply for any type of prior conviction for driving after loss of a license). A court can instead order community service if the offender is indigent or the court finds that the fine would create an undue hardship.

The provision would go into effect August 1, 2017, for offenses committed on or after that date.