

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 06-0297.01 Richard Sweetman

**SENATE BILL 06-072**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Tochtrop,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**Senate Committees**

Judiciary  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

Transportation & Energy  
Appropriations

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING INCREASING PENALTIES FOR CARELESS DRIVING.**

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Establishes minimum mandatory fines and provides for mandatory license revocation for drivers convicted of careless driving when it is the proximate cause of unintentional serious bodily injury or unintentional death to another person.

Takes away the discretion of the court to reduce, suspend, or waive the minimum fines for these offenses.

Creates the highway safety sign account to fund signs alerting motorists to share the road with other road users and beware of potential road hazards.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.

*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*

*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 19, 2006

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 18, 2006

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** The general assembly is  
3 aware of the human suffering and loss of life, limb, and property caused  
4 by negligence in the operation of motor vehicles in our state. Although  
5 the general assembly recognizes that this issue can be, and is being, dealt  
6 with by direct measures designed to discourage such negligent behavior  
7 through imposition of fines and penalties for violation of traffic laws, it  
8 also recognizes that more severe penalties and higher fines are  
9 appropriate when violations of section 42-4-1402, Colorado Revised  
10 Statutes, result in serious bodily injury or death to another person.

11           **SECTION 2.** 42-4-1402, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
12 to read:

13           **42-4-1402. Careless driving - penalty.** (1) Any person who  
14 drives any motor vehicle, bicycle, or motorized bicycle in a careless and  
15 imprudent manner, without due regard for the width, grade, curves,  
16 corners, traffic, and use of the streets and highways and all other attendant  
17 circumstances, is guilty of careless driving. A person convicted of  
18 careless driving of a bicycle or motorized bicycle shall not be subject to  
19 the provisions of section 42-2-127.

20           (2) Any person who violates any provision of this section  
21 commits: a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, but, if the person's  
22 actions are the proximate cause of bodily injury or death to another, such  
23 person commits a class 1 misdemeanor traffic offense.

24           (a) A CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR TRAFFIC OFFENSE IF THE VIOLATION  
25 DID NOT RESULT IN INJURY TO ANY PERSON;

26           (b) A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR TRAFFIC OFFENSE IF THE VIOLATION

1 WAS THE PROXIMATE CAUSE OF INJURY TO ANY PERSON;

2 (c) A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR TRAFFIC OFFENSE IF THE VIOLATION

3 WAS THE PROXIMATE CAUSE OF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY TO ANY PERSON,

4 AS "SERIOUS BODILY INJURY" IS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-4-1601 (4) (b);

5 (d) A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR TRAFFIC OFFENSE IF THE VIOLATION

6 WAS THE PROXIMATE CAUSE OF DEATH TO ANY PERSON.

7 (3) IF A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION WAS THE PROXIMATE CAUSE

8 OF \_\_\_\_\_ SERIOUS BODILY INJURY TO ANOTHER PERSON, AS "SERIOUS

9 BODILY INJURY" IS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-4-1601 (4) (b), THE COURT MAY

10 IMPOSE, IN ADDITION TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 42-4-1701 (3) (a) (II)

11 (A), A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

12 (4) IF A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION WAS THE PROXIMATE CAUSE

13 OF \_\_\_ DEATH TO ANOTHER PERSON, THE COURT MAY IMPOSE, IN ADDITION

14 TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 42-4-1701 (3) (a) (II) (A), A FINE OF NOT

15 LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

16

17 **SECTION 3.** 42-2-127 (5) is amended BY THE ADDITION OF

18 THE FOLLOWING NEW PARAGRAPHS to read:

19 **42-2-127. Authority to suspend license - to deny license - type**

20 **of conviction - points.** (5) Point system schedule:

<b>Type of conviction</b>	<b>Points</b>
(e.2) CARELESS DRIVING RESULTING IN BODILY INJURY.....	6
(e.4) CARELESS DRIVING RESULTING IN SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.....	8
(e.6) CARELESS DRIVING RESULTING IN DEATH.....	12

26 **SECTION 4.** 42-4-1701 (4) (a) (I) (N), Colorado Revised

27 **Statutes,** is amended to read:

1            **42-4-1701. Traffic offenses and infractions classified -**  
2            **penalties - penalty and surcharge schedule - repeal.** (4) (a) (I) Except  
3            as provided in paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of this section, every  
4            person who is convicted of, who admits liability for, or against whom a  
5            judgment is entered for a violation of any provision of this title to which  
6            the provisions of paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (5) of this section  
7            apply shall be fined or penalized, and have a surcharge levied thereon  
8            pursuant to section 24-4.2-104 (1) (b) (I), C.R.S., in accordance with the  
9            penalty and surcharge schedule set forth in sub-subparagraphs (A) to (P)  
10           of this subparagraph (I); or, if no penalty or surcharge is specified in the  
11           schedule, the penalty for class A and class B traffic infractions shall be  
12           fifteen dollars, and the surcharge shall be two dollars. These penalties  
13           and surcharges shall apply whether the defendant acknowledges the  
14           defendant's guilt or liability in accordance with the procedure set forth by  
15           paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of this section or is found guilty by a  
16           court of competent jurisdiction or has judgment entered against the  
17           defendant by a county court magistrate. Penalties and surcharges for  
18           violating specific sections shall be as follows:

	<b><u>Section Violated</u></b>	<b><u>Penalty</u></b>	<b><u>Surcharge</u></b>
19			
20	<b><u>(N) Other offenses:</u></b>		
21	<u>42-4-1301 (2) (a.5)</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	<u>\$ 7.80</u>
22	<u>42-4-1305</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>7.80</u>
23	<u>42-4-1402 (1) 42-4-1402</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>7.80</u>
24	<u>(2) (a)</u>		
25	<u>42-4-1403</u>	<u>15.00</u>	<u>2.60</u>
26	<u>42-4-1404</u>	<u>15.00</u>	<u>2.60</u>
27	<u>42-4-1406</u>	<u>35.00</u>	<u>5.20</u>

1	<u>42-4-1407 (3) (a)</u>	<u>35.00</u>	<u>5.20</u>
2	<u>42-4-1407 (3) (b)</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>15.00</u>
3	<u>42-4-1407 (3) (c)</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
4	<u>42-4-314</u>	<u>35.00</u>	<u>5.20</u>
5	<u>42-4-1408</u>	<u>15.00</u>	<u>2.60</u>
6	<u>42-4-1414 (2) (a)</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>78.00</u>
7	<u>42-4-1414 (2) (b)</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>156.00</u>
8	<u>42-4-1414 (2) (c)</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>780.00</u>

9           **SECTION 5.** 42-1-217 (1) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended, and the said 42-1-217 (1) is further amended BY THE  
11 ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH, to read:

12           **42-1-217. Disposition of fines and surcharges - highway safety**  
13 **sign account - creation.** (1) All judges, clerks of a court of record, or  
14 other officers imposing or receiving fines, penalties, or forfeitures, except  
15 those moneys received pursuant to sections 42-4-313 (3), 42-4-413,  
16 42-4-1409, 42-4-1701 (5) (a), 42-8-105, and 42-8-106, collected pursuant  
17 to or as a result of a conviction of any persons for a violation of any of the  
18 provisions of articles 1 to 4 (except part 3 of article 2) of this title, shall  
19 transmit, within ten days after the date of receipt of any such fine, penalty,  
20 or forfeiture, all such moneys so collected in the following manner:

21           (a) The aggregate amount of such fines, penalties, or forfeitures,  
22 except for a violation of section 42-4-1301 or 42-4-237, OR A VIOLATION  
23 OF SECTION 42-4-1402 WHEN THE VIOLATION RESULTS IN        SERIOUS  
24 BODILY INJURY OR        DEATH TO ANOTHER PERSON AS PROVIDED IN  
25 SECTION 42-4-1402 (3) AND (4), shall be transmitted to the state treasurer,  
26 credited to the highway users tax fund, and allocated and expended as  
27 specified in section 43-4-205 (5.5) (a), C.R.S.

1           (f) ALL MONEYS COLLECTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 42-4-1402 (3)  
2 OR (4) SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL  
3 CREDIT THE SAME TO THE HIGHWAY USERS TAX FUND CREATED IN  
4 SECTION 42-2-132 (4) (b). THE MONEYS SHALL BE ALLOCATED PURSUANT  
5 TO SECTION 43-4-205 (5.5) (a), C.R.S.

6           **SECTION 6.** 43-4-205 (5.5) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended to read:

8           **43-4-205. Allocation of fund.** (5.5) The following highway  
9 users tax fund revenues shall be allocated and expended in accordance  
10 with the formula specified in subsection (5) of this section:

11           (a) Revenues from fines, penalties, or forfeitures that are credited  
12 to the fund pursuant to sections 18-4-509 (2) (a), 39-27-102 (9) (c),  
13 39-27-104 (1) (g) (III), 42-1-217 (1) (a), (1) (b), (1) (d), (1) (e), and (2),  
14 42-4-225 (3), and 42-4-235 (2) (a), C.R.S. AND 42-4-1402 (3) AND (4),  
15 C.R.S.:

16           ██████████  
17           **SECTION 7. Effective date.** (1) This act shall take effect July  
18 1, 2006.

19           (2) However, if a referendum petition is filed against this act or  
20 an item, section, or part of this act during the 90-day period after final  
21 adjournment of the general assembly that is allowed for submitting a  
22 referendum petition pursuant to article V, section 1 (3) of the state  
23 constitution, then the act, item, section, or part, shall not take effect unless  
24 approved by the people at a biennial regular general election and shall  
25 take effect on the date specified in subsection (1) or on the date of the  
26 official declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the governor,  
27 whichever is later.