

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 318

BY REPRESENTATIVE CONNICK

DWI: Provides relative to prior convictions of the crime of operating a vehicle while intoxicated

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:1894.1(A) and R.S. 14:98(C)(1)(e) and (3), relative to the  
3 crime of operating a vehicle while intoxicated; to provide relative to the  
4 determination of the existence of prior convictions for operating a vehicle while  
5 intoxicated; to remove exceptions for certain New Orleans courts; and to provide for  
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 13:1894.1(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §1894.1. Driving while intoxicated, prosecutions for violation required to be filed  
10 under general state law; city and municipal courts, ~~New Orleans excepted~~

11 A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, including the  
12 provisions of R.S. 13:1871, prosecutions in any city, parish, or municipal court, ~~the~~  
13 ~~city, municipal and traffic courts of the city of New Orleans excepted~~, based on or  
14 arising out of the operation of a vehicle by a person while intoxicated may be  
15 charged and prosecuted under the provisions of R.S. 14:98 or under any applicable  
16 city, parish, or municipal ordinance that incorporates the standards, elements, and  
17 sentences of the offense of driving while intoxicated contained in R.S. 14:98. Any  
18 conviction for a first or second offense or the entry of a plea of guilty and sentence  
19 based on such plea or the forfeiture of bail of any person having been charged with  
20 a first or second violation of R.S. 14:98 in any such city, parish, or municipal court

1 shall be punishable in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 14:98(D)(1) or ~~(D)(2)~~,  
 2 whichever is applicable. Any conviction for a first or second offense or the entry of  
 3 a plea of guilty and sentence based on such plea or the forfeiture of bail of any  
 4 person having been charged with a first or second violation of the applicable city,  
 5 parish, or municipal ordinance in any such city, parish, or municipal court shall be  
 6 punishable in accordance with the provisions of the ordinance and shall constitute  
 7 a conviction under R.S. 14:98 for purposes of determining the number of prior  
 8 convictions in a proceeding under R.S. 14:98.

9 \* \* \*

10 Section 2. R.S. 14:98(C)(1)(e) and (3) are hereby amended to read as follows:

11 §98. Operating a vehicle while intoxicated

12 \* \* \*

13 C.(1) For purposes of determining whether a defendant has a prior  
 14 conviction for a violation of this Section, a conviction under any of the following  
 15 shall constitute a prior conviction:

16 \* \* \*

17 (e) A law of any state or an ordinance of a municipality, town, or similar  
 18 political subdivision of another state that prohibits the operation of any motor  
 19 vehicle, aircraft, watercraft, vessel, or other means of conveyance while intoxicated,  
 20 while impaired, or while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any controlled  
 21 dangerous substance, or as otherwise provided by R.S. 13:1894.1.

22 \* \* \*

23 (3) For purposes of this Section, a prior conviction shall not include a  
 24 conviction for an offense under this Section, a conviction for an offense under R.S.  
 25 14:39.1, or a conviction under the laws of any state or an ordinance of a  
 26 municipality, town, or similar political subdivision of another state which prohibits  
 27 the operation of any motor vehicle, aircraft, watercraft, vessel, or other means of  
 28 conveyance while intoxicated, while impaired, or while under the influence of  
 29 alcohol, drugs, or any controlled dangerous substance, or as otherwise provided by



Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Remove reference to present law exception for New Orleans from the present law Section heading to conform with proposed law.
2. Make technical correction to citation.