

2020 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 352

BY SENATOR HENRY

DWI. Provides that the court may order a clinical assessment for a person who has two or more DWI convictions. (8/1/20)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 14:98.5.1, relative to driving offenses; to provide that the court may order a clinical assessment for a person who has two or more convictions for operating a vehicle while intoxicated; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:98.5.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§98.5.1. Assessment for alcohol or drug dependence; rehabilitative programs; second and subsequent convictions**

**A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary provided by R.S. 14:98, 98.1, 98.2, 98.3, and 98.4, on a second or subsequent conviction for a violation of R.S. 14:98, the court may order the offender to undergo an assessment that uses a standardized evidence-based instrument performed by a physician to determine whether the offender has a diagnosis for alcohol or drug dependence and would likely benefit from a court-approved medication-assisted treatment indicated and approved for the treatment of alcohol or drug dependence by the United States Food and Drug Administration, as specified in the most recent Diagnostic and Statistical**

1        **Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric**  
2        **Association.**

3                **B. Upon considering the results of the assessment, the court may refer**  
4        **the offender to a rehabilitative program that offers one or more forms of**  
5        **court-approved medications that are approved for the treatment of alcohol or**  
6        **drug dependence by the United States Food and Drug Administration.**

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alden A. Clement Jr.

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	DIGEST	
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Present law provides relative to penalties for the crime of operating a vehicle while intoxicated. Present law further provides relative to participation by an offender in court-approved substance abuse programs and assessments to determine whether the offender has a diagnosis of substance abuse disorder.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that, notwithstanding any other provision of present law to the contrary, on a second or subsequent conviction for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, the court may order the offender to undergo an assessment that uses a standardized evidence-based instrument performed by a physician to determine whether the offender has a diagnosis for alcohol or drug dependence and would likely benefit from a court-approved medication-assisted treatment indicated and approved for the treatment of alcohol or drug dependence by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as specified in the most recent Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association.

Proposed law further provides that, upon considering the results of the assessment, the court may refer the offender to a rehabilitative program that offers one or more forms of court-approved medications that are approved for the treatment of alcohol or drug dependence by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Effective August 1, 2020.

(Adds R.S. 14:98.5.1)