

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 493

BY SENATOR MAYNARD

[Introduced January 31, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17C-6-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to correcting terminology referring to racing vehicles illegally on the street.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. SPEED RESTRICTIONS.

**§17C-6-8. Racing on streets and highways prohibited; legislative findings; penalties;
mandatory revocation of licenses.**

1 The Legislature hereby determines and finds that the racing of motor vehicles on the public
2 streets and highways of this state, whether within or in excess of the lawful speed limit (much of
3 which racing is commonly referred to as “~~drag racing~~ illegal street racing”), is extremely dangerous
4 to life, limb, and property, and that such racing is an ever increasing problem. It is, therefore,
5 hereby declared to be the public policy of this state to prohibit all forms of such racing on the
6 public streets and highways, and to provide criminal penalties for, and require the revocation of,
7 the operator’s or chauffeur’s license or nonresident privilege to drive, of those persons who are
8 convicted of engaging in or aiding or abetting such racing.

9 (a) It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any person to engage in, or aid or abet by serving as lookout
10 or timer or in any other capacity whatever, any speed race, as defined herein, on any public street
11 or highway in this state. For the purposes of this subdivision, “speed race” means:

12 (1) The operation of a motor vehicle in speed acceleration competition with another motor
13 vehicle or motor vehicles; or

14 (2) The operation of a motor vehicle in speed acceleration competition against time; or

15 (3) The operation of a motor vehicle in speed competition with another motor vehicle, or
16 motor vehicles where speed exceeds the lawful speed limit.

17 (b) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (a) of this section ~~shall be~~ is
18 guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished for a first offense by a
19 fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$100; and for a second offense by a fine of not less than
20 \$50 nor more than \$500, or by imprisonment for not less than six days nor more than 60 days, or

21 by both such fine and imprisonment; and for a third and each subsequent offense by a fine of not
22 less than \$100 nor more than \$1000, or by imprisonment for not less than 60 days nor more than
23 four months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. For the purposes of this section, a forfeiture
24 of bail or collateral deposited to secure such person's appearance in court, which forfeiture has
25 not been vacated, shall be equivalent to a final conviction. If at the time of any violation of the
26 provisions of subdivision (a) of this section by any person as an operator of a motor vehicle, such
27 person was not entitled to operate a motor vehicle in this state because his or her operator's or
28 chauffeur's license, or privilege to drive in this state if such person be a nonresident, had earlier
29 been suspended or revoked, then in addition to the offense, penalties, and mandatory revocation
30 provided for in this section, the provisions of §17B-4-3 of this code shall be applicable.

31 (c) Whenever a person is convicted for a violation of the provisions of subdivision (a) of
32 this section, which conviction has become final, the Commissioner of the Division of Motor
33 Vehicles shall in addition to the penalties hereinbefore provided, forthwith:

34 (1) For a first offense, revoke the operator's or chauffeur's license of such person, or such
35 person's privilege to drive in this state if he or she be a nonresident, for a period of six months;

36 (2) For a second offense occurring within a two-year period, revoke the operator's or
37 chauffeur's license of such person, or such person's privilege to drive in this state if he or she be
38 a nonresident, for a period of two years; or

39 (3) For a third or any subsequent offense occurring within a five-year period, revoke the
40 operator's or chauffeur's license of such person, or such person's privilege to drive in this state if
41 he or she be a nonresident, for a period of five years.

42 Whenever a person is convicted as aforesaid for a second, third, or subsequent offense
43 which occurred while such person's operator's or chauffeur's license, or privilege to drive in this
44 state if he or she be a nonresident, was revoked pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision,
45 the period or periods of mandatory revocation for such second, third, or subsequent offense shall
46 be cumulative and shall run consecutively. If a person's junior or probationary operator's license

47 is revoked in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision, such person may not apply for a
48 regular operator's or chauffeur's license until he or she reaches 18 years of age or until the period
49 of revocation has elapsed, whichever event shall last occur. Notwithstanding the provisions of
50 §17B-3-8 of this code, any person whose operator's or chauffeur's license, or privilege to drive in
51 this state if he or she be a nonresident, is revoked, under the provisions of this subdivision, may,
52 following the period or periods of revocation, immediately apply for and obtain a new operator's
53 or chauffeur's license or nonresident privilege to drive, as the case may be, if and only if the
54 Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles is satisfied, after investigation of the character,
55 habits, and driving ability of such person, that it will be safe to permit such person to drive a motor
56 vehicle on the public streets and highways. Any period of revocation imposed under the provisions
57 of this subdivision shall be computed from the date of such revocation.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to correct terminology referring to racing vehicles illegally on the street.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.