



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

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## **TOUGHER IGNITION INTERLOCK BILL CLEARS SENATE**

Senate Also Votes to Provide Workers' Compensation for PTSD & PTSI for Police/Fire

MADISON – A bill that prohibits some drunk drivers from driving without an ignition interlock device passed the State Senate today on a voice vote. Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) authored Senate Bill 384 to increase compliance with ignition interlock requirements.

“An ignition interlock device is an effective tool in reducing drunk driving,” said Wanggaard. “Too often, convicted drunk drivers skirt ignition interlock laws driving a vehicle that technically doesn’t belong to them. Senate Bill 384 eliminates this loophole by allowing judges to prohibit convicted drunk driver from operating any vehicle without an interlock device.”

The Senate also passed a bill making it easier for police and fire personnel to seek workers’ compensation coverage for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Injury (PTSD). Under current law, it is nearly impossible for a police officer or fire fighter to qualify for workers’ compensation for PTSD, because the standard for coverage is so high. Under Senate Bill 511, police and fire officers can qualify for workers’ compensation based on a diagnosis by a mental health professional, and the PTSD was the result of their employment.

“PTSD and PTSI and suicide is at an epidemic rate among police and fire officials,” said Wanggaard. “This is a small, but important step in recognizing and solving this mental health crisis among our first responders.”

Both Senate Bill 511 and Senate Bill 384 now go to the Assembly for action. Senator Wanggaard hopes the Assembly will pass the bills next month.

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