



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Tribal
Council
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Tahlequah, OK 74464

Legislation Text

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AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 47 OF THE CHEROKEE NATION CODE ANNOTATED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CHEROKEE NATION:

Section 1. Title and Codification

This act amends Title 47, Chapter 67 of the Cherokee Nation Code Annotated and shall be codified at the sections referenced herein of the Cherokee Nation Code Annotated.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to modernize the Nation's motor vehicle code.

Section 3. Legislative History

LA-2-91

LA-25-06

LA-30-20

LA-02-21

Section 4. Amendments

Title 47 shall be amended as follows:

MISCELLANEOUS LAWS

CHAPTER 67

CHEMICAL TESTS

§ 751. Implied consent to breath test, blood test or other test for determining presence or concentration of alcohol or other intoxicating substance

A. 1. Any person who operates a motor vehicle upon the public roads, highways, streets, turnpikes or other public place or upon any private road, street, alley or lane which provides access to one or more single or multi-family dwellings within this state shall be deemed to have given consent to a test or tests of such person's blood or breath, for the purpose of determining the alcohol concentration as defined in Section 756 of this title, and such person's blood, saliva or urine for determining the presence or concentration of any other intoxicating substance therein as defined in this section, if arrested for any offense arising out of acts alleged to have been committed while the person was operating or in actual physical control of a motor vehicle upon the public roads, highways, streets, turnpikes or other public place or upon any private road, street, alley or lane which provides access to one or more single or multi-family dwellings while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substance, or the combined influence of alcohol and any other intoxicating substance, or if the person is involved in a traffic accident that resulted in the immediate death or serious injury of any person and is removed from the scene of the accident to a hospital or other health care facility outside the State of Oklahoma before a law enforcement officer can effect an arrest.

2. A law enforcement officer, having reasonable grounds to believe that such person was operating or in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence may direct the administration of or administer the test or tests.

As used in this title, the term "other intoxicating substance" shall mean any controlled dangerous substance as defined in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act¹ and any other substance, other than alcohol, which is capable of being ingested, inhaled, injected or absorbed into the human body and is capable of adversely affecting the central nervous system, vision, hearing or other sensory or motor functions.

B. The law enforcement agency by which the arresting officer is employed may designate, in accordance with the rules of the Board of Tests for Alcohol and Drug Influence, hereinafter referred to as the Board, whether blood or breath is to be tested for the alcohol concentration thereof, and whether blood, saliva or urine is to be tested for the presence or concentration of any other intoxicating substance therein.

In the event that law enforcement agency does not designate the test to be administered, breath shall be the substance tested for alcohol concentration. Blood may also be tested to determine the alcohol concentration thereof in the event that breath cannot be tested to determine the alcohol concentration thereof because of the lack of an approved device or qualified person to administer a breath test or because such breath test for any other reason cannot be administered in accordance with the rules of the Board.

In the event the law enforcement agency does not designate the test to be administered, blood, saliva or urine shall be the substance tested for the presence or concentration of any other intoxicating substance or the combination of alcohol and any other intoxicating substance.

C. In the event the person is incapable of submitting to and successfully completing, by reason of illness or injury or other physical disability, the test to be administered, an alternate test may be administered in accordance with the rules of the Board.

D. Any person who is unconscious or otherwise incapable of refusing to submit to a test of such person's blood or breath to determine the alcohol concentration thereof, or to a test of such person's blood, saliva or urine to determine the presence or concentration of any other intoxicating substance therein, shall be deemed not to have withdrawn the consent provided by subsection A of this section, and such test may be administered as provided herein.

An unconscious person who has been issued a citation by a law enforcement officer for one of the offenses listed in subsection A of this section is arrested for purposes of this section. The arresting officer must leave a copy of the citation with the arrested person which may be accomplished by handing it to the arrested person, or by leaving it with the personal effects of the arrested party, so as to inform the unconscious person of the arrest.

Any person who has been arrested for one of the offenses listed in subsection A of this section who is unconscious or injured and who requires immediate medical treatment as determined by a treating physician may be released on the person's own recognizance for medical reasons by the arresting officer. The arresting officer who releases an arrested person on the person's own recognizance must indicate the release on the face of the citation. Any person released on his or her own recognizance for medical reasons shall remain at liberty pending the filing of charges.

E. In addition to any test designated by the arresting officer, the arrested person may also designate any additional test to be administered to determine the concentration of alcohol, or the presence or concentration of any other intoxicating substance or the combination of alcohol and any other intoxicating substance. The cost of such additional test shall be at the expense of the arrested person.

A sufficient quantity of any specimen obtained at the designation of the arrested person shall be available to the law enforcement agency employing the arresting officer. Such specimens shall be treated in accordance with the rules applicable to the specimens obtained by an arresting officer.

F. When a law enforcement officer has determined that the blood alcohol content of an individual is to be tested for the presence or concentration of alcohol, other intoxicating substance, or the combination of alcohol and any other intoxicating substance, the law enforcement officer shall inform the individual to be tested that the withdrawal of blood shall only be performed by certain medical personnel as provided for in Section 752 of this title.

G. The results of the tests provided for in this title shall be admissible in all civil actions, including administrative hearings regarding driving privileges.

§ 752. Administration of tests--Authorization--Liability--Laboratories--Independent analysis--Costs

A. Only a licensed medical doctor, licensed osteopathic physician, licensed chiropractic physician, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, physician's assistant, certified by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, an employee of a hospital or other health care facility authorized by the hospital or health care facility to withdraw blood, or other qualified person authorized by the Board of Tests for Alcohol and Drug Influence acting at the request of a law enforcement officer may withdraw blood for the purpose of having a determination made of its concentration of alcohol or the presence or concentration of other intoxicating substance. Only qualified persons authorized by the Board may collect breath, saliva or urine, or administer tests of breath under the provisions of this title.

B. If the person authorized to withdraw blood as specified in subsection A of this section is presented with a written statement:

1. Authorizing blood withdrawal signed by the person whose blood is to be withdrawn;

2. Signed by a duly authorized peace officer that the person whose blood is to be withdrawn has agreed to the withdrawal of blood;

3. Signed by a duly authorized peace officer that the person whose blood is to be withdrawn has been placed under arrest and that the officer has probable cause to believe that the person, while intoxicated, has operated a motor vehicle in such manner as to have caused the death or serious physical injury of another person, or the person has been involved in a traffic accident and has been removed from the scene of the accident that resulted in the death or great bodily injury, as defined in subsection B of Section [21 CNCA § 646](#) of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, of any person to a hospital or other health care facility outside the State of Oklahoma before the law enforcement officer was able to effect an arrest for such offense; or

4. In the form of an order from a district court that blood be withdrawn, the person authorized to withdraw the blood and the hospital or other health care facility where the withdrawal occurs may rely on such a statement or order as evidence that the person has consented to or has been required to submit to the clinical procedure and shall not require the person to sign any additional consent or waiver form. In such a case, the person authorized to perform the procedure, the employer of such person, and the hospital or other health care facility shall not be liable in any action alleging lack of consent or lack of informed consent.

C. No person specified in subsection A of this section, no employer of such person, and no hospital or other health care facility where blood is withdrawn shall incur any civil or criminal liability as a result of the proper withdrawal of blood when acting at the request of a law enforcement officer by the provisions of Section 751 or 753 of this title, or when acting in reliance upon a signed statement or court order as provided in this section, if the act is performed in a reasonable manner according to generally accepted clinical practice. No person specified in subsection A of this section shall incur any civil or criminal liability as a result of the proper collection of breath, saliva or urine when acting at the request of a law enforcement officer under the provisions of Section 751 or 753 of this title or when acting pursuant to a court order.

D. The blood, breath, saliva or urine specimens obtained shall be tested by the appropriate test as determined

by the Board, or tested by a laboratory that is exempt from the Board rules pursuant to Section 47 O.S. § 759 of this title, to determine the alcohol concentration thereof, or the presence or concentration of any other intoxicating substance which might have affected the ability of the person tested to operate a motor vehicle safely.

E. When blood is withdrawn or saliva or urine is collected for testing of its alcohol concentration or other intoxicating substance presence or concentration, at the request of a law enforcement officer, a sufficient quantity of the same specimen shall be obtained to enable the tested person, at his or her own option and expense, to have an independent analysis made of such specimen. The excess blood, saliva or urine specimen shall be retained by a laboratory approved by the Board, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Board, or by a laboratory that is exempt from the Board rules pursuant to 47 O.S. § Section 759 of this title, for sixty (60) days from the date of collection. At any time within that period, the tested person or his or her attorney may direct that such blood, saliva or urine specimen be sent or delivered to a laboratory of his or her own choosing and approved by the Board for an independent analysis. Neither the tested person, nor any agent of such person, shall have access to the additional blood, saliva or urine specimen prior to the completion of the independent analysis, except the analyst performing the independent analysis and agents of the analyst.

F. When a test of breath is performed for the purpose of determining the alcohol concentration thereof, except when such test is performed by means of an automated analyzer as designated by the Board, a sufficient quantity of breath, or of the alcohol content of a fixed or measured quantity of breath, shall be obtained, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Board, to enable the tested person, at his or her own option and expense, to have an independent analysis thereof, except the analyst performing the independent analysis and agents of the analyst.

G. The costs of collecting blood, breath, saliva or urine specimens for the purpose of determining the alcohol or other intoxicating substance thereof, by or at the direction of a law enforcement officer, shall be borne by the law enforcement agency employing such officer; provided, if the person is convicted for any offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of or while impaired by alcohol or an intoxicating substance, or both, as a direct result of the incident which caused the collection of blood, saliva or urine specimens, an amount equal to the costs shall become a part of the court costs of the person and shall be collected by the court and remitted to the law enforcement agency bearing the costs. The cost of collecting, retaining and sending or delivering to an independent laboratory the excess specimens of blood, breath, saliva or urine for independent analysis at the option of the tested person shall also be borne by such law enforcement agency. The cost of the independent analysis of such specimen of blood, breath, saliva or urine shall be borne by the tested person at whose option such analysis is performed. The tested person, or his or her agent, shall make all necessary arrangements for the performance of such independent analysis

other than the forwarding or delivery of such specimen.

H. Tests of blood or breath for the purpose of determining the alcohol concentration thereof, and tests of blood, saliva or urine for the purpose of determining the presence or concentration of any other intoxicating substance therein, under the provisions of this title, whether administered by or at the direction of a law enforcement officer or administered independently, at the option of the tested person, on the excess specimen of such person's blood, breath, saliva or urine, to be considered valid and admissible in evidence under the provisions of this title, shall have been administered or performed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Board, or performed by a laboratory that is exempt from the Board rules pursuant to [47 O.S. § Section 759](#) of this title.

I. Any person who has been arrested for any offense arising out of acts alleged to have been committed while the person was operating or in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, any other intoxicating substance or the combined influence of alcohol and any other intoxicating substance who is not requested by a law enforcement officer to submit to a test shall be entitled to have an independent test of his or her blood, breath, saliva or urine which is appropriate as determined by the Board for the purpose of determining its alcohol concentration or the presence or concentration of any other intoxicating substance therein, performed by a person of his or her own choosing who is qualified as stipulated in this section. The arrested person shall bear the responsibility for making all necessary arrangements for the administration of such independent test and for the independent analysis of any specimens obtained, and bear all costs thereof. The failure or inability of the arrested person to obtain an independent test shall not preclude the admission of other competent evidence bearing upon the question of whether such person was under the influence of alcohol, or any other intoxicating substance or the combined influence of alcohol and any other intoxicating substance.

J. Any agency or laboratory certified by the Board or any agency or laboratory that is exempt from the Board rules pursuant to [47 O.S. § Section 759](#) of this title, which analyses breath, blood, or urine shall make available a written report of the results of the test administered by or at the direction of the law enforcement officer to:

1. The tested person, or his or her attorney;

2. The Commissioner of Public Safety; and

3. The Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) analyst of the state, upon request.

The results of the tests provided for in this title shall be admissible in all civil actions, including administrative hearings regarding driving privileges.

§ 753. Refusal to submit to test

A. If a conscious person under arrest refuses to submit to testing of his or her blood or breath for the purpose of determining the alcohol concentration thereof, or to a test of his or her blood, saliva or urine for the purpose of determining the presence or concentration of any other intoxicating substance, or the combined influence of alcohol and any other intoxicating substance, none shall be given except upon the issuance of a search warrant or unless the investigating officer has probable cause to believe that the person under arrest, while intoxicated, has operated the motor vehicle in such a manner as to have caused the death or serious physical injury of any other person or persons. In such event, such test otherwise authorized by law may be made in the same manner as if a search warrant had been issued for such test or tests. The sample shall be taken in a medically acceptable manner as authorized by Section 752 of this title. The Commissioner of Public Safety, upon the receipt of a sworn report of the law enforcement officer that the officer had reasonable grounds to believe the arrested person had been driving or was in actual physical control of a motor vehicle upon the public roads, highways, streets, turnpikes or other public place of this state while under the influence of alcohol, any other intoxicating substance, or the combined influence of alcohol and any other intoxicating substance, or that the person had refused to submit to the test or tests, shall revoke the license to drive and any nonresident operating privilege for a period provided by 47 O.S. § 6-205.1. If the person is a resident or nonresident without a license or permit to operate a motor vehicle in this state, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall deny to the person the issuance of a license or permit for a period provided by 47 O.S. § 6-205.1 subject to a review as provided in 47 O.S. § 754. The revocation or denial shall become effective thirty (30) days after the arrested person is given written notice thereof by the officer or by the Department of Public Safety as provided in 47 O.S. § 754.

B. The Department shall immediately reinstate the driving privilege of the person if:

1. The arrested person was required to submit to the testing of his or her blood or breath pursuant to the provisions of a search warrant despite his or her refusal to submit to testing; and

2. The Department receives a written blood or breath test report that reflects the arrested person did not have any measurable quantity of alcohol, or any other intoxicating substance, or the combination of alcohol and any other intoxicating substance in the blood or breath of the arrested person.

§ 754. Seizure of license--Temporary driving privileges--Administrative revocation

A. Any arrested person who is under twenty-one (21) years of age and has any measurable quantity of alcohol in the person's blood or breath, or any person twenty-one (21) years of age or older whose alcohol concentration is eight-hundredths (0.08) or more as shown by a breath test administered according to the provisions of this title, or any arrested person who has refused to submit to a breath or blood test, shall immediately surrender his or her driver license, permit or other evidence of driving privilege to the arresting law enforcement officer. The officer shall seize any driver license, permit, or other evidence of driving privilege surrendered by or found on the arrested person during a search.

B. If the evidence of driving privilege surrendered to or seized by the officer has not expired and otherwise appears valid, the officer shall issue to the arrested person a dated receipt for that driver license, permit, or other evidence of driving privilege on a form prescribed by the Department of Public Safety. This receipt shall be recognized as a driver license and shall authorize the arrested person to operate a motor vehicle for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days. The receipt form shall contain and constitute a notice of revocation of driving privilege by the Department effective in thirty (30) days. The evidence of driving privilege and a copy of the receipt form issued to the arrested person shall be attached to the sworn report of the officer and shall be submitted by mail or in person to the Department within seventy-two (72) hours of the issuance of the receipt. The failure of the officer to timely file this report shall not affect the authority of the Department to revoke the driving privilege of the arrested person.

C. Upon receipt of a written blood or breath test report reflecting that the arrested person, if under twenty-one (21) years of age, had any measurable quantity of alcohol in the blood or breath of the person, or, if the arrested person is twenty-one (21) years of age or older, a blood or breath alcohol concentration of eight-hundredths (0.08) or more, accompanied by a sworn report from a law enforcement officer that the officer had reasonable grounds to believe the arrested person had been operating or was in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol as prohibited by law, the Department shall revoke or deny the driving privilege of the arrested person for a period as provided by 47 O.S. § 6-205.1 of this title, unless the person has successfully completed or is currently participating in the Impaired Driver Accountability Program.

Revocation or denial of the driving privilege of the arrested person shall become effective thirty (30) days after the arrested person is given written notice thereof by the officer as provided in this section or by the Department as provided in 47 O.S. § 2-116.

D. The appeal hearing before the district court shall be conducted in accordance with Section 6-211 of this title. The hearing shall cover the issues of whether the officer had reasonable grounds to believe the person had been operating or was in actual physical control of a vehicle upon the public roads, highways, streets, turnpikes or other public place of this state while under the influence of alcohol, any other intoxicating substance or the combined influence of alcohol and any other intoxicating substance as prohibited by law, and whether the person was placed under arrest.

1. If the revocation or denial is based upon a breath or blood test result and a sworn report from a law enforcement officer, the scope of the hearing shall also cover the issues as to whether:

a. if timely requested by the person, the person was not denied a breath or blood test,

b. the specimen was obtained from the person within two (2) hours of the arrest of the person,

c. the person, if under twenty-one (21) years of age, was advised that driving privileges would be revoked or denied if the test result reflected the presence of any measurable quantity of alcohol,

d. the person, if twenty-one (21) years of age or older, was advised that driving privileges would be revoked or denied if the test result reflected an alcohol concentration of eight-hundredths (0.08) or more, and

e. the test result in fact reflects the alcohol concentration.

2. If the revocation or denial is based upon the refusal of the person to submit to a breath or blood test, reflected in a sworn report by a law enforcement officer, the scope of the hearing shall also include whether:

a. the person refused to submit to the test or tests, and

b. the person was informed that driving privileges would be revoked or denied if the person refused to submit to the test or tests.

E. After the hearing, the district court shall order the revocation or denial either rescinded or sustained.

§ 754.1 Modification of revocation or denial if no other adequate means of transportation exists--Ignition interlock device--Rules

A. Modification of a revocation or denial arising under the provisions 47 O.S. § 6-205.1 or under the provisions of 47 O.S. §§ 751 through 754 or 761 shall apply to Class D driver licenses only.

B. As a prerequisite and condition of any modification, the person shall be required to have installed an ignition interlock device approved by the Board of Tests for Alcohol and Drug Influence, at the person's own expense, upon any motor vehicle operated by the person. The Department shall require, as a condition of modification, the device to be installed upon any vehicle owned or leased, as reflected on the vehicle registration, by an employer of the person for use by the employer, except when the employer requests the ignition interlock device not be installed. The request shall be in writing and notarized on the official letterhead of the employer and provided by the person to the Department; provided, a request shall not be accepted by the Department under the following circumstances:

1. When the person is self-employed or owns part or all of the company or corporation, or exercises control over some part of the business which owns or leases the vehicle;

2. When the person is employed by a relative who either is within the first degree of consanguinity or who resides in the same household; or

3. When the person has had a prior revocation pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection A of 47 O.S. § 6-205 or to 47 O.S. §§ 753 or 754.

The person shall comply with all provisions of law and rule regarding ignition interlock devices.

C. The Board of Tests for Alcohol and Drug Influence may promulgate such rules as are necessary to implement and administer the provisions of this subsection relating to ignition interlock devices and the providers of such devices.

§ 754.2. District court order to modify a revocation or denial

The district court shall modify, upon request, the revocation or denial occurring pursuant to 47 O.S. §§ 753 or 754. The district court shall enter a written order directing the Department of Public Safety to allow driving, subject to the limitations of 47 O.S. § 6-205.1 and the requirement of an ignition interlock device as provided in 47 O.S. § 754.1; provided, any modification under this paragraph shall apply to Class D driver licenses only.

§ 755. Reserved

§ 756. Admission of evidence shown by tests

A. Upon the trial of any criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been committed by

any person while driving or in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating substance, or the combined influence of alcohol and any other intoxicating substance, evidence of the alcohol concentration in the blood or breath of the person as shown by analysis of the blood or breath of the person performed in accordance with the provisions of Sections 752 of this title and 47 O.S. § 759 of this title or evidence of the presence or concentration of any other intoxicating substance as shown by analysis of such person's blood, breath, saliva, or urine specimens in accordance with the provisions of Sections 752 of this title and 47 O.S. § 759 of this title is admissible. Evidence that the person has refused to submit to a test or tests is also admissible. For the purpose of this title, when the person is under the age of twenty-one (21) years, evidence that there was, at the time of the test, any measurable quantity of alcohol is prima facie evidence that the person is under the influence of alcohol in violation of 47 O.S. § Section 11-906.4 of this title . For persons twenty-one years of age or older:

1. Evidence that there was, at the time of the test, an alcohol concentration of five-hundredths (0.05) or less is prima facie evidence that the person was not under the influence of alcohol;

2. Evidence that there was, at the time of the test, an alcohol concentration in excess of five-hundredths (0.05) but less than eight-hundredths (0.08) is relevant evidence that the person's ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by alcohol. However, no person shall be convicted of the offense of operating or being in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while such person's ability to operate such vehicle was impaired by alcohol solely because there was, at the time of the test, an alcohol concentration in excess of five-hundredths (0.05) but less than eight-hundredths (0.08) in the blood or breath of the person in the absence of additional evidence that such person's ability to operate such vehicle was affected by alcohol to the extent that the public health and safety was threatened or that the person had violated a state statute or local ordinance in the operation of a motor vehicle; and

3. Evidence that there was, at the time of the test, an alcohol concentration of eight-hundredths (0.08) or more shall be admitted as prima facie evidence that the person was under the influence of alcohol.

B. For purposes of this title, "alcohol concentration" means grams of alcohol per one hundred (100) milliliters of blood if the blood was tested, or grams of alcohol per two hundred ten (210) liters of breath if the breath was tested.

C. To be admissible in a proceeding, the evidence must first be qualified by establishing that the test was administered to the person within two (2) hours after the arrest of the person.

§ 757. Other competent evidence--Admissibility

The provisions of this title do not limit the introduction of any other competent evidence bearing on the question of whether the person was under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating substance, or the combined influence of alcohol and any other intoxicating substance.

§§ 758-760. Reserved

§ 761. Operation of motor vehicle while impaired--Penalties--Suspensions--Violation not bondable

A. Any person who operates a motor vehicle while his ability to operate such motor vehicle is impaired by the consumption of alcohol, or any other substance, other than alcohol, which is capable of being ingested, inhaled, injected or absorbed into the human body and is capable of adversely affecting the central nervous system, vision, hearing or other sensory or motor functions shall be subject to a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or a term of imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

B. Upon the receipt of any person's record of conviction of driving while impaired, when such conviction has become final, the Department of Public Safety shall suspend the driving privilege of such person, as follows:

1. The first suspension shall be for thirty (30) days;

2. The second suspension shall be for a period of six (6) months, which may be modified; provided, any modification under this paragraph shall apply to Class D motor vehicles only; and

3. The third or subsequent suspension shall be for twelve (12) months, which may be modified; provided, any modification under this paragraph shall apply to Class D motor vehicles only.

Provided, however, the Department shall not suspend such privilege pursuant to this subsection if said person's driving privilege has been revoked based upon a test result or test refusal pursuant to Section 753 or Section 754 of this title arising from the same circumstances which resulted in the conviction.

§ 762. Reserved

Section 6. Provisions as cumulative

The provisions of this act shall be cumulative to existing law.

Section 7. Severability

The provisions of this act are severable and if any part of provision hereof shall be held void the decision of the court so holding shall not affect or impair any of the remaining parts or provisions of this act.

Section 8. Effective Date

It being immediately necessary for the welfare of the Cherokee Nation, the Council hereby declares that an emergency exists, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force after its passage and approval.

Section 9. Self-Help Contributions

To the extent that this Act involves programs or services to citizens of the Nation or others, self-help contributions shall be required, unless specifically prohibited by the funding agency, or a waiver is granted due to physical or mental incapacity of the participant to contribute.