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SEN. JACQUE BILL STALLS DANGEROUS DRIVERS *Committee clears bill impounding vehicles of habitual offenders*

MADISON... Habitual dangerous driving offenders who repeatedly put the safety of our families at risk on the road could see their vehicles taken away under legislation passed today by a Senate committee.

The author, State Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere), said current penalties have not proven strong enough to deter many individuals who repeatedly drive recklessly, to the point that removing their access to a vehicle may become necessary.

“When individuals get behind the wheel of a vehicle with no intent of obeying the traffic laws that were enacted to keep us safe, they put themselves and everyone else on the road in danger,” Sen. Jacque said. “Whether you are driving to work, taking your kids to the park, going to the grocery store, or coming in from a night out, we all deserve to feel safe on the road.”

Sen. Jacque said his legislation adds impoundment for up to 90 days to the list of penalties which can be imposed for traffic offenses which endanger public safety, including fleeing from a law enforcement officer, speeding more than 25 miles per hour above the speed limit, racing on a highway, and operating a vehicle without a license more than 3 months after expiration or with a revoked operating privilege.

“The seriousness of this most dangerous behavior demands our officers have the authority to impound a vehicle of those with no consideration for the potentially deadly consequences of their irresponsible actions,” Sen. Jacque said. “Repeat reckless drivers have demonstrated time and again that they simply do not respect the safety of their fellow citizens.”

Sen. Jacque said that, as impoundment costs are otherwise currently borne by local government, this legislation would also require the driver found guilty of the impoundment violation to pay the costs incurred by the law enforcement agency.

“In addition, the owner of the vehicle can get it back if law enforcement determines that the reckless driver was operating the vehicle without the owner’s consent at the time of the violation,” Sen. Jacque said. “Families rely on safe transportation, and this bill does not hold innocent vehicle owners responsible.”

Sen Jacque said the impoundment legislation has been requested by numerous law enforcement officials and is formally supported by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, the Wisconsin Chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police, and was recently endorsed by the Milwaukee Common Council.

The measure ([Senate Bill 410](#)) passed the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee in a 6-1 vote. It now heads to the Senate Floor and must pass the State Assembly and be signed by the Governor to become law.

Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin’s First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties.