



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

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## **NEW PENALTY FOR DRUNK DRIVERS - FOUR STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT** Wanggaard Bill Revokes Licenses for Repeat Offenders

MADISON – Repeat drunk drivers will permanently lose their driver’s licenses if they are convicted of 4 or more OWI-related offenses thanks to a bill that cleared the Assembly on Thursday. Senate Bill 135, authored by Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) and Representative John Spiros (R-Marshfield) will return to the Senate for concurrence in an amendment before heading to the Governor.

“Anyone can make a mistake, but doing it four times is inexcusable. It’s time to get repeat drunk drivers off the road,” said Wanggaard. “Repeatedly putting lives at risk is inexcusable. This bill permanently takes away driving privileges from those individuals and is a long-time in coming.”

Under the bill, a drunk driver will permanently lose their driving privileges if they are convicted of four OWI-Related offenses during their lifetimes. In addition to Operating while Intoxicated, homicide or injury for intoxicated use of a vehicle also count as strikes. Offenders will not be eligible for an occupational licenses, but can apply for reinstatement after ten years if they maintain a clean criminal record during that time.

“We’ve all seen the tragic results that result from drunk driving,” Wanggaard added. “We can’t keep giving people opportunities to hurt themselves and others. We need to get repeat drunk drivers off the road – permanently.”

Senate Bill 135 passed the Senate in November, 2017 on a unanimous vote. The bill cleared the Assembly on Thursday 84-10. The Senate will agree to the Assembly amendment in March, sending the bill to Governor Walker’s desk.

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