

## Legal Update

October 31, 2005

### Melanie's Bill: What It Means for Prosecutors

On Friday, October 28, 2005, *Melanie's Bill: An Act Increasing Penalties for Drunk Drivers in the Commonwealth* was enacted. **The law takes effect immediately.** Below is a brief summary highlighting the five sections that are most important to prosecutors:

1. Prosecutors are no longer required to introduce corroborating evidence or live witness testimony to prove a prior conviction.
2. Every defendant convicted of a second or subsequent offense will be required to install an ignition interlocking device on their vehicle.
3. A defendant's license is immediately suspended upon arrest rather than the previous 15-day waiting period.
4. The law creates a new crime of Manslaughter by Motor Vehicle which carries a five year minimum mandatory penalty.
5. The law dramatically increases license suspensions for subsequent breathalyzer refusals.

Attached you will find the text of the bill. A detailed summary will be distributed by the end of the day.

[MDAAnet/Resources/Vehicular Crimes/Melanie's Bill](#)