

2018 Year-End Report: State Legislative Activity



RESPONSIBILITY.ORG

Advocacy in Action: Governors Engaging



Governor Hogan Wins The 2018 Leadership Award for Legislative Efforts

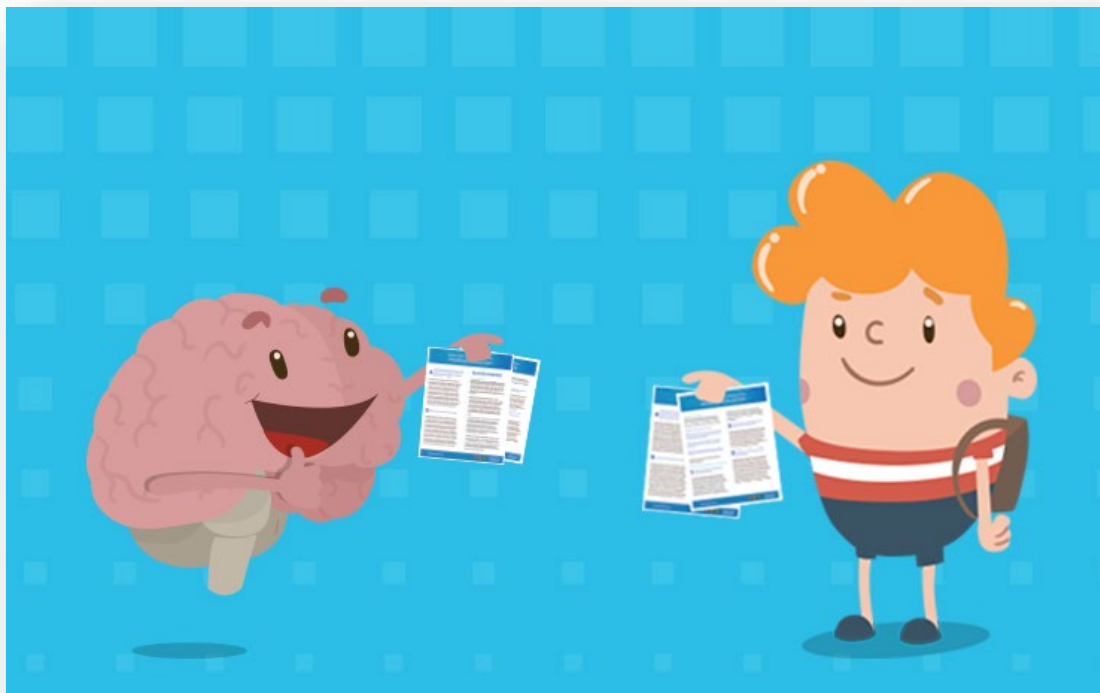
Responsibility.org has enjoyed working alongside Governor Larry Hogan (R-MD) and his staff to advocate for a felony DUI bill, the Repeat Drunk Driving Offenders Act ([MD SB 296/HB 349](#)). This legislation would classify fourth and subsequent DUI convictions as a felony. At present, Maryland is one of only four states that does not have a felony law for multiple DUI offenses. Responsibility.org has worked steadily in Maryland with a wide range of partners to support the passage of impaired driving legislation (such as Noah's Law and oral fluid pilot bills) and to strengthen social host laws. Given the high-risk nature of repeat offenders and the dangers they pose, Responsibility.org joined law enforcement, prosecutors, and highway safety advocates in supporting this important piece of legislation. Unfortunately, the bill failed again in the final hours of session as the House and Senate could not agree on amendments. Thankfully, Governor Hogan has announced he will reintroduce the Repeat Drunk Driving Offenders Act in 2019. Responsibility.org awarded Governor Hogan with its 2018 Leadership Award for his strong leadership on supporting these bills and efforts to end impaired driving throughout Maryland. We look forward to joining Governor Hogan and our fellow safety partners in finally passing this important piece of legislation.





Responsibility.org Meets with Governor Phil Murphy's Team

At Responsibility.org, we value stakeholders who really “lean-in” on the issues affecting their constituents. Responsibility.org team members met with the Governor’s senior staffers to discuss underage drinking prevention strategies in October. Unfortunately, underage drinking consumption in [New Jersey is above the national average](#) between the ages of 12 to 20 years old. To prevent underage drinking, Responsibility.org has developed a suite of lesson plans, classroom-friendly animated videos and a litany of blogs and resources to help guide parents, teachers, school nurses, peers and more! This program is called, [Ask, Listen, Learn](#) and has been [evaluated](#) this year. We would be remiss if we did not also highlight the Attorney General of New Jersey, [Gurbir Grewal](#). His strong leadership on law enforcement issues and work to prevent underage drinking led us to select him for a 2018 leadership award this year! In the coming year, you can look forward to seeing Responsibility.org’s partnership with New Jersey continue to flourish as we maintain communication and collaboration with our new friends and partners.



Creative Conversations...

This August, Responsibility.org attended the Governors Highway Safety Association's Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia and brought along a BIG guest. [Shaquille O'Neal](#) teamed up with us once again to thank and to deliver a message to the law enforcement and traffic safety comprised audience—ending impaired driving is a priority. In addition to a special guest speaker, Responsibility.org brought a creative guest to their booth, artist Nikki Kurt. While conference goers visited the booth they we invited to answer three simple questions: 1) What drives you to safety? 2) What does safety mean to you? 3) What does responsibility mean to you? Their responses were recorded and translated into a collaborative work of art pictured below. To solve large, complex problems like ending impaired driving and to prevent underage drinking, they must be approached through out-of-the-box thinking and open conversations. These boards highlight stories and thoughts on the issues we advocate for daily. Only through personal connections can thoughtful policies be created.



#Advocacy

To spread the message of alcohol responsibility to the broadest audience possible—Responsibility.org’s has taken to social media to break down complex legislative priorities into digestible posts and blogs. During Teen Driver Safety Week, Responsibility.org launched a medley of #TDSWeek posts to encourage younger drivers to remember to drive safely. The Vice President of Government Relations and Traffic Safety, Brandy Nannini, wrote a [blog post during Child Passenger Safety Week](#) to describe legislative victories and goals surrounding child passenger safety legislation regarding impaired driving. By breaking down complex and typically niche topics through an online medium, Responsibility.org can simplify and amplify the message of responsibility for all ages.



In addition to social media and blog posts, Responsibility.org invested in developing two short animated videos to explain how hardcore repeat drunk drivers slip through the cracks of the criminal justice system and how an eWarrants system can benefit a community. In just two minutes, we were able to communicate the complexities and offer realistic solutions. When the public understands and can relate to these complex ideas, a conversation around change can occur.



New Year, New Laws

Several new laws to strengthen public health and safety are coming into effect across the nation. Since our [midyear report](#), the following are laws we have supported have come or will come into effect:

Bill #:	Type:	Effective Date:
AL S 1	Makes improvements to the ignition interlock law	6/1/2018
AL S 90	Extends look-back periods from 5 years to 10 years for DUI convictions and lifetime look-back for felony DUI convictions	6/1/2018
AL H 190	Allows rideshares and establishes parameters	7/1/2018
AZ H 2243	Makes driving the wrong way while DUI an aggravated DUI (Class 4 felony)	6/30/2018
AZ S 1401	Makes improvements to the ignition interlock law	6/30/2018
CA S 973	Expands free or discounted safe rides	1/1/2019
HI H 2003	Clarifies employer exemption in the ignition interlock law	7/1/2035
IA H 2338	Requires ignition interlocks for all convicted DUI offenders	7/1/2018
ID H 551	Requires ignition interlocks for all convicted DUI offenders	1/1/2019
IN S 404	Enhances penalties for DUI causing death	7/1/2018
KS H 2439	Enhances penalties - DUI causing death (previous DUI offense)	7/1/2019
MO HB 2	Establishes treatment (DUI) courts	12/18/2018
MS S 2197	Good Samaritan law	7/1/2018
NH S 346	Makes improvements to the ignition interlock law	I. Section 4 - 01/01/2022, II. Remainder - 01/01/2019
PA S 961	Enhances penalties for repeat DUI offenders	12/23/2018
RI H 7223	DUI Child Endangerment (felony offense, increased penalties)	7/2/2018
VT H 511	Requires warrants for blood tests, enhanced penalties for DUI (drugs/alcohol) with minor child in vehicle, prohibits drug/alcohol consumption and driving for people under 21, bans open containers of marijuana in vehicles.	7/1/2018

These new laws indicate what is to come in the new year and highlights gaps that still require attention. Road safety in terms of impaired driving prevention is not a two-dimensional issue. A variety of protective and preventative measures are needed to fully cover impaired driving and underage drinking in comprehensive ways. The work is not done once the law is passed and takes effect. Then it must be fully implemented and utilized. Failure to do so results in DUI offenders slipping through cracks in the system. If DUI offenders are not held accountable for their actions and screened for substance use and mental health disorders and then treated as needed, it is highly likely they will repeat their behavior. One-third of impaired driving deaths involve repeat offenders.

To learn which state legislators Responsibility.org has awarded for their leadership in the fight against impaired driving and underage drinking read more [here](#) about our 2018 Leadership Award winners. Want to see which laws your state has on the books? Take a look at our interactive [State Map](#) and see how your state compares.

2018's Legislative Actions...

Throughout the 2018 legislative cycles, Responsibility.org issued letters, held topical briefings and meetings, testified publicly and so much more all in the name of preventing underage drinking and impaired driving. To be precise, a total of **717 separate engagements** have been recorded (662 actions in the states and 95 in Congress). Not included are our frequent federal agency meetings, social media campaigns and PSAs with the state attorneys general.

We were legislatively active in 22 states and issued 447 support letters and 35 opposition letters. We submitted verbal or written testimony in California (SB 1273), Massachusetts (SB 2006) and in Maryland (SB 296). Providing expert testimony, data driven policy recommendations, collaborative meetings and more is just a fraction of how Responsibility.org works with stakeholders to eliminate impaired driving and underage drinking.



Director of Traffic Safety, Erin Holmes, testified before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce at the "Examining Drug Impaired Driving" hearing in July.

If you would like to learn more about our policies and programs, please visit our [Policy webpage](#). For more information, contact our Manager of Government Relations and Traffic Safety, Madeleine Spjut at Madeleine.Spjut@responsibility.org.