

## **The New Alcohol Law**

Here's a quick look at the revamped statewide alcohol law – dubbed Prevention of Underage Drinking and Access to Alcohol Act – that went into effect July 1.

### **Under the new law:**

- Attempts to purchase are illegal for underage drinkers.
- Consumption is illegal for underage drinkers.
- Violators face increased fines, ranging from \$100 to \$500 and/or up to 30 days in jail.
- First-time violators can lose their driver's license for 120 days. Repeat offenders can lose their license for a year.
- Violators must attend an approved alcohol intervention program for at least eight hours.
- Those who lie about their identity to get alcohol can face fines up to \$200 and/or up to 30 days in jail.
- Those who buy alcohol to give to an underage drinker can face fines up to \$300 and/or up to 30 days in jail for a first offense. Repeat offenders face fines up to \$500 and up to 30 days in jail.
- Clerks who sell to underage drinkers can face fines up to \$200 and/or up to 30 days in jail for a first offense. Repeat offenders can face a fine up to \$500 and/or up to 30 days in jail.

### **On Jan. 1:**

- Clerks will be required to have those purchasing kegs of beer to complete an identification form and statement noting they will not give the beer to an underage drinker.
- Repeat violators will be required to equip their cars at their expense with an ignition interlock similar to a breathalyzer. They must blow on the device to start the car; the car will not start if the device registers at .02.