

189A.010 Operating motor vehicle with alcohol concentration of or above 0.08, or of or above 0.02 for persons under age twenty-one, or while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or other substance which impairs driving ability prohibited -- Admissibility of alcohol concentration or controlled substance test results -- Presumptions -- Penalties -- Aggravating circumstances.

- (1) A person shall not operate or be in physical control of a motor vehicle anywhere in this Commonwealth:
 - (a) Having an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more as measured by a scientifically reliable test or tests of a sample of the person's breath or blood taken within two (2) hours of cessation of operation or physical control of a motor vehicle;
 - (b) While under the influence of alcohol;
 - (c) While under the influence of any other substance or combination of substances which impairs one's driving ability;
 - (d) While the presence of a controlled substance listed in subsection (12) of this section is detected in the blood, as measured by a scientifically reliable test, or tests, taken within two (2) hours of cessation of operation or physical control of a motor vehicle;
 - (e) While under the combined influence of alcohol and any other substance which impairs one's driving ability; or
 - (f) Having an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or more as measured by a scientifically reliable test or tests of a sample of the person's breath or blood taken within two (2) hours of cessation of operation or physical control of a motor vehicle, if the person is under the age of twenty-one (21).
- (2) With the exception of the results of the tests administered pursuant to KRS 189A.103(7):
 - (a) If the sample of the person's blood or breath that is used to determine the alcohol concentration thereof was obtained more than two (2) hours after cessation of operation or physical control of a motor vehicle, the results of the test or tests shall be inadmissible as evidence in a prosecution under subsection (1)(a) or (f) of this section. The results of the test or tests, however, may be admissible in a prosecution under subsection (1)(b) or (e) of this section; or
 - (b) If the sample of the person's blood that is used to determine the presence of a controlled substance was obtained more than two (2) hours after cessation of operation or physical control of a motor vehicle, the results of the test or tests shall be inadmissible as evidence in a prosecution under subsection (1)(d) of this section. The results of the test or tests, however, may be admissible in a prosecution under subsection (1)(c) or (e) of this section.
- (3) In any prosecution for a violation of subsection (1)(b) or (e) of this section in which the defendant is charged with having operated or been in physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, the alcohol concentration in the defendant's blood as determined at the time of making analysis of his or her blood

or breath shall give rise to the following presumptions:

- (a) If there was an alcohol concentration of less than 0.04, it shall be presumed that the defendant was not under the influence of alcohol; and
- (b) If there was an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater but less than 0.08, that fact shall not constitute a presumption that the defendant either was or was not under the influence of alcohol, but that fact may be considered, together with other competent evidence, in determining the guilt or innocence of the defendant.

This subsection shall not be construed as limiting the introduction of any other competent evidence bearing upon the questions of whether the defendant was under the influence of alcohol or other substances, in any prosecution for a violation of subsection (1)(b) or (e) of this section.

- (4)
 - (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, the fact that any person charged with violation of subsection (1) of this section is legally entitled to use any substance, including alcohol, shall not constitute a defense against any charge of violation of subsection (1) of this section.
 - (b) A laboratory test or tests for a controlled substance shall be inadmissible as evidence in a prosecution under subsection (1)(d) of this section upon a finding by the court that the defendant consumed the substance under a valid prescription from a practitioner, as defined in KRS 218A.010, acting in the course of his or her professional practice. However, a laboratory test for a controlled substance may be admissible as evidence in a prosecution under subsection (1)(c) or (e) of this section.
- (5) Any person who violates the provisions of paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) of subsection (1) of this section shall:
 - (a) For the first offense within a ten (10) year period, be fined not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500), or be imprisoned in the county jail for not less than forty-eight (48) hours nor more than thirty (30) days, or both. Following sentencing, the defendant may apply to the judge for permission to enter a community labor program for not less than forty-eight (48) hours nor more than thirty (30) days in lieu of fine or imprisonment, or both. If any of the aggravating circumstances listed in subsection (11) of this section are present while the person was operating or in physical control of a motor vehicle, the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment shall be four (4) days, which term shall not be suspended, probated, conditionally discharged, or subject to any other form of early release;
 - (b) For the second offense within a ten (10) year period, be fined not less than three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) and shall be imprisoned in the county jail for not less than seven (7) days nor more than six (6) months and, in addition to fine and imprisonment, may be sentenced to community labor for not less than ten (10) days nor more than six (6) months. If any of the aggravating circumstances listed in subsection (11) of this section are present, the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment shall be fourteen (14) days, which term shall not be suspended,

probated, conditionally discharged, or subject to any other form of early release;

- (c) For a third offense within a ten (10) year period, be fined not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and shall be imprisoned in the county jail for not less than thirty (30) days nor more than twelve (12) months and may, in addition to fine and imprisonment, be sentenced to community labor for not less than thirty (30) days nor more than twelve (12) months. If any of the aggravating circumstances listed in subsection (11) of this section are present, the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment shall be sixty (60) days, which term shall not be suspended, probated, conditionally discharged, or subject to any other form of early release;
 - (d) For a fourth or subsequent offense within a ten (10) year period, be guilty of a Class D felony. If any of the aggravating circumstances listed in subsection (11) of this section are present, the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment shall be two hundred forty (240) days, which term shall not be suspended, probated, conditionally discharged, or subject to any other form of release; and
 - (e) For purposes of this subsection, prior offenses shall include all convictions in this Commonwealth, and any other state or jurisdiction, for operating or being in control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other substances that impair one's driving ability, or any combination of alcohol and such substances, or while having an unlawful alcohol concentration, or driving while intoxicated, but shall not include convictions for violating subsection (1)(f) of this section. A court shall receive as proof of a prior conviction a copy of that conviction, certified by the court ordering the conviction.
- (6) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (1)(f) of this section shall be fined no less than one hundred dollars (\$100) and no more than five hundred dollars (\$500), or sentenced to twenty (20) hours of community service in lieu of a fine. A person subject to the penalties of this subsection shall not be subject to the penalties established in subsection (5) of this section or any other penalty established pursuant to KRS Chapter 189A, except those established in KRS 189A.040(1) and KRS 189A.070.
 - (7) If the person is under the age of twenty-one (21) and there was an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or greater, the person shall be subject to the penalties established pursuant to subsection (5) of this section.
 - (8)
 - (a) For a second or third offense within a ten (10) year period, the minimum sentence of imprisonment or community labor shall not be suspended, probated, or subject to conditional discharge or other form of early release.
 - (b) For a fourth or subsequent offense under this section, the minimum term of imprisonment shall be one hundred twenty (120) days, and this term shall not be suspended, probated, or subject to conditional discharge or other form of early release.
 - (c) For a second or subsequent offense, at least forty-eight (48) hours of the

mandatory sentence shall be served consecutively.

- (9) When sentencing persons under subsection (5)(a) of this section, at least one (1) of the penalties shall be assessed and that penalty shall not be suspended, probated, or subject to conditional discharge or other form of early release.
- (10) In determining the ten (10) year period under this section, the period shall be measured from the dates on which the offenses occurred for which the judgments of conviction were entered.
- (11) For purposes of this section, aggravating circumstances are any one (1) or more of the following:
 - (a) Operating a motor vehicle in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour above the speed limit;
 - (b) Operating a motor vehicle in the wrong direction on a limited access highway;
 - (c) Operating a motor vehicle that causes an accident resulting in death or serious physical injury as defined in KRS 500.080;
 - (d) Operating a motor vehicle while the alcohol concentration in the operator's blood or breath is 0.15 or more as measured by a test or tests of a sample of the operator's blood or breath taken within two (2) hours of cessation of operation of the motor vehicle;
 - (e) Refusing to submit to any test of one's breath requested by an officer having reasonable grounds to believe the person was operating or in physical control of a motor vehicle in violation of subsection (1) of this section, except it shall not be considered an aggravating circumstance for a first offense under subsection (5)(a) of this section; and
 - (f) Operating a motor vehicle that is transporting a passenger under the age of twelve (12) years old.
- (12) The substances applicable to a prosecution under subsection (1)(d) of this section are:
 - (a) Any Schedule I controlled substance except marijuana;
 - (b) Alprazolam;
 - (c) Amphetamine;
 - (d) Buprenorphine;
 - (e) Butalbital;
 - (f) Carisoprodol;
 - (g) Clonazepam;
 - (h) Cocaine;
 - (i) Cyclobenzaprine;
 - (j) Diazepam;
 - (k) Fentanyl;
 - (l) Hydrocodone;
 - (m) Meprobamate;
 - (n) Methadone;

- (o) Methamphetamine;
- (p) Oxycodone;
- (q) Promethazine;
- (r) Propoxyphene; and
- (s) Zolpidem.

Effective: July 15, 2026

History: Amended 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 193, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2026. -- Amended 2019 Ky. Acts ch. 103, sec. 2, effective July 1, 2020. -- Amended 2016 Ky. Acts ch. 85, sec. 1, effective April 9, 2016. -- Amended 2010 Ky. Acts ch. 149, sec. 17, effective July 15, 2010. -- Amended 2002 Ky. Acts ch. 183, sec. 19, effective August 1, 2002. -- Amended 2000 Ky. Acts ch. 467, sec. 2, effective October 1, 2000. -- Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 124, sec. 8, effective July 15, 1998; and ch. 606, sec. 171, effective July 15, 1998. -- Amended 1996 Ky. Acts ch. 198, sec. 10, effective October 10, 1996. -- Amended 1991 (1st Extra. Sess.) Ky. Acts ch. 15, sec. 2, effective July 1, 1991. -- Created 1984 Ky. Acts ch. 165, sec. 1, effective July 13, 1984.

Legislative Research Commission Note (4/9/2016). 2016 Ky. Acts ch. 85, sec. 10 provided that that Act shall be known as the Brianna Taylor Act. This statute was amended in Section 1 of that Act.