

**SG Bullets 7 days for:** *FirstName LastName CA to FirstName LastName, MLA Constituency*  
**Issue:** *Ignition Interlock Program*  
**Branch:** *ABC*  
**CLIFF number:** *686694*  
**Cross Reference (if applicable):** *NA*

**Request:** Constituent Mx. Driver is seeking assistance from his MLA to request medical exemption from his requirement to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program (IIP).

**Background:** Constituent Mx. Driver is requesting his MLA's assistance with requesting reconsideration of his extended enrolment in the IIP, due to asthma and COPD conditions, and shares that ABC will not communicate with him. The MLA is asking on Mx. Driver's behalf:

- Has Mx. Driver received a response to his August 6, 2024 letter?
- Is his suspended driver's licence as a result of his inability to use the breathalyzer, or is it due to other factors?
- Is there an alternative form of Smart Start device that would rely on a different measuring method other than a breathalyzer for people who have respiratory difficulties like COPD?

**Context:**

- The Ignition Interlock Program is a remedial program for drivers who have received alcohol-related driving prohibitions.
- ABC honours outstanding remedial program requirements from other provinces. This includes the Responsible Driver Program (RDP) and the Ignition Interlock Program (IIP).
- Smart Start Canada is the service provider for the IIP in B.C.
- The Ignition Interlock Device requires a small amount of breath which most people can provide, including those with chronic medical conditions. While medical exceptions are rare, in B.C., a medical practitioner can complete a Request for Medical Exemption from the IIP form, if, in their medical opinion, that a driver has a medical condition that prevents them from providing enough air to use the ignition interlock device (IID).
- Medical exemptions from the IIP are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**File Summary:**

- Mx. Driver was originally subject to a 12-month mandatory IIP requirement originating in Alberta. As ABC honours outstanding remedial and/or licensing requirements from other provinces or jurisdictions, Mx. Driver was required to install the IID to obtain a B.C. driver's licence.
- ABC received two separate police reports (January 12, 2022, and March 3, 2023) regarding Mx. Driver, indicating he was driving while in B.C. without a valid licence and without an IID installed. As a result, he received a 12-month discretionary IIP extension, for a total IIP requirement of 24 months.
- As of September 4, 2024, he completed the 12-month mandatory Alberta interlock requirement. He has 12-months of discretionary interlock remaining in B.C.

- A reconsideration or IIP Medical Exemption was not available in relation to the Alberta requirement, as B.C. does not reconsider or exempt Interlock terms imposed by another jurisdiction. As only the B.C. discretionary requirement now remains outstanding, Mx. Driver is eligible to submit an IIP Medical Exemption application to ABC for review.
- On August 6, 2024, Mx. Driver applied for an IIP Extension or Reconsideration via a letter to ABC.
- On August 12, 2024, Mx. Driver's driver's licence was cancelled for not complying with the IIP, as he removed the IID on August 9, 2024. A letter was sent to the driver on August 12, 2024. To ABC's knowledge, the IID still has not been reinstalled.
- On September 4, 2024, ABC called Mx. Driver about his August 6, 2024, letter/application for an extension/reconsideration.
- On November 19, 2024, ABC also wrote to Mx. Driver regarding his August 6, 2024 letter/application for an extension/reconsideration of his IIP term. Mx. Driver was advised that:
  - His request for an IIP extension/reconsideration was unsuccessful and he's required to complete his 12-month extended IIP term from British Columbia.
  - To regain his driving privileges, he must have an IIP installed in any vehicle he'll be driving and obtain an interlock-restricted driver's licence.
  - His driver's licence will remain cancelled until these outstanding requirements have been met.
  - There is medical exemption process for the IIP.
- In late 2024, ABC had been in regular contact with Mx. Driver regarding his file.
- As of February 10, 2026, Mx. Driver's driver's licence remains cancelled.

### **Next Steps / Response for Constituent**

- Mx. Driver has completed the Alberta portion of the ignition interlock requirement. He has 12 months remaining on his B.C. IIP requirement. (See file summary)
  - Mx. Driver must satisfy the B.C. IIP requirement. To satisfy this requirement, he must have an IID installed in any vehicle he'll be driving. He must also obtain an interlock-restricted driver's licence and complete the outstanding 12-month term.
- As per the file summary above, Mx. Driver's driver's licence was cancelled Aug 12, 2024, for IIP non-compliance, as he removed the required interlock device.
- As outlined in the file summary above, ABC responded to Mx. Driver's August 6, 2024 letter, which was an application for IIP Extension or Reconsideration. The application was received on August 8, 2024, reviewed, and ultimately determined to be unsuccessful. Mx. Driver received a supervisor callback on September 4, 2024, to discuss his file. ABC

also notified Mx. Driver in writing on Nov. 19, 2024. The letter included mention of the medical reconsideration process.

- If Mx. Driver wants to proceed with a medical exemption from the IIP, this is the process:
  - To initiate this process, drivers must contact Smart Start Canada to arrange an installation appointment.
  - If at the appointment, the driver is unable to operate the device at the required volume of breath, they will need to contact ABC at 1-855-387-7747 and ask for a Request for Medical Exemption Form.
  - The medical information on the exemption form must be provided by a licensed medical practitioner (Physician) and all sections (Patient Information and Medical Information) must be completed for the exemption form to be considered.
  - A driver is notified in writing when their exemption form has been reviewed and a decision has been made. Until further notice, registration and participation in the IIP remains a condition of keeping their driver's licence and/or regaining driving privileges.
- There is no alternative Smart Start device that uses alternate testing methods for people with respiratory conditions such as asthma or COPD.
- ABC has been in contact with Mx. Driver regarding his file. If he has any outstanding questions, he may email [ABC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ABC@gov.bc.ca) to request a call, and ABC will coordinate a suitable time to call him back.
- ABC can't confirm any comprehensive communication Mx. Driver has had with XYZ.
- Mx. Driver's request for records falls under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). To submit a formal request, Mx. Driver must contact Information Access Operations (IAO) at [email address].

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Program ADM/Division:  
Program contact (for content):  
Drafter:  
Date:

Phone number: