

Virginia Aims to Lessen Underage Drinking and Driving

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Virginia in the US has announced that the state would levy higher penalties for underage drinking and driving effective 1 July, 2011.

The state is considering a zero tolerance policy for underage drinking and driving.

As per the new law, anyone under the age of 21 with a blood alcohol level of 0.02% or higher, will be subjected to \$500 fine or 50 hours of community service and a one year driver's license suspension, if found guilty.

Washington Regional Alcohol Program president Kurt Erickson said, "That's not up to a year, that is a hard, fast one year driver's license suspension, plus being guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor."

The decision of the state puts an old penalty back which was expired under a sunset provision in 2008, he added.

The legal limit for citizens above the age of 21 is 0.08 and drivers over that limit would be subject to a DUI charge, said reports.