



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John J. Bonacic

Senate Passes “Teresita’s Law” by Senator Bonacic to Protect Pedestrians From Illegal Drivers

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ISSUE:

- [Crime](#)
- [Law](#)

(Albany, NY)- Today the New York State Senate passed “Teresita’s Law,” (S.1600) sponsored by Senator John J. Bonacic (R/C/I-Mt. Hope), which elevates the charge of causing the death of another, while negligently operating a motor vehicle with a suspended, revoked, or otherwise withdrawn license, from a misdemeanor to a Class E Felony.

This legislation was introduced in honor of Teresita “Grace” Solano, who was killed in Middletown, New York in 2012, when she was hit while crossing a street by a negligent driver who was operating a vehicle with a suspended license. The driver’s license had been previously suspended multiple times, however under the current law he could only be charged with a misdemeanor, which carries a maximum jail

sentence of 30 days and a \$500 fine.

“When a driver with a suspended license kills another person, he or she must be held accountable for their actions,” said Senator Bonacic. “Those who drive without valid licenses should not be on the road, and when they kill an innocent person they cannot walk away with only a slap on the wrist.”

The bill now moves to the Assembly for a vote.

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