Alcohol penalties may rise

By Andrea Kelly

PHOENIX — Those caught buying or providing alcohol for minors could face a license suspension if a bill in the Arizona Senate to change those penalties is approved.

The bill, HB2115, would add license suspension to the options a judge has when prosecuting someone convicted of buying or providing alcohol to a minor.

Yesterday, the Senate approved an amendment that would make the length of a suspended license shorter than the bill originally called for. Sen. Barbara Leff, R-Paradise Valley, said she thought the sanctions for suspending licenses of people caught providing alcohol to minors was appropriate, but thought the penalty should be smaller.

The original bill called for the second offense to warrant at least a six-month suspension. The bill would give judges the ability to suspend the license of anyone caught buying or providing alcohol to a minor for up to 90 days.

In its first version, the bill called for the license suspension for at least 30 days. A second offense would now allow a judge to suspend the person’s license for up to six months.

Leff said she thought these changes “seemed more reasonable” in the scheme of the offense.

She said the bill was created to give judges more options. The law now says a person convicted of providing alcohol to minors is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor, the maximum penalty for which includes up to six months in jail, fines up to $2,500 and probation for up to three years, but does not allow a judge to impose penalties more than $2,500 and probation for up to three years, but does not allow a judge to impose penalties more than $2,500 and probation for up to three years, but does not allow a judge to impose penalties more than $2,500 and probation for up to three years, but does not allow a judge to impose penalties more than $2,500 and probation for up to three years, but does not allow a judge to impose penalties more than $2,500 and probation for up to three years, but does not allow a judge to impose penalties more than $2,500 and probation for up to three years, but does not allow a judge to impose penalties more than $2,500 and probation for up to three years, but does not allow a judge to impose penalties more than $2,500 and 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