Baton Rouge, La. (AP) — The Legislature has given final passage and sent to Gov. Dave Treen the administration’s key bill to get tough on drunk drivers.

The Senate gave final legislative passage Wednesday night, voting 37-0 to approve a House-Senate conference committee compromise.

Earlier in the day, the House voted 95-3 to accept the compromise.

If Treen signs it — and proponents say he will — the new law will become effective on Jan. 1, 1983.

The authors of the measure said the state needs that much lead time to educate the public.

The bill was thrown into conference committee when the House rejected a Senate amendment that required district attorneys to file written reasons for reducing DWI penalties, a practice that some legislators charge is commonplace around the state.

The conference committee agreed to strike that amendment.

Under the bill, first offenders convicted of driving while intoxicated would face jail sentences of from 10 days to 6 months and fines of from $125 to $500.

The sentence and fine could be suspended, but the offender would be forced to spend at least two days in jail or perform four days of public service work. The bill also changed current penalties for repeat offenders.

House attorney Raymond Lamonica told the committee the requirement for written reasons for charge dismissals or reductions from district attorneys was unconstitutional.

Senators Richard Neeson of Shreveport and Thomas Hudson of Baton Rouge, members of the six-member conference committee, said they still liked that provision.

There was no debate when the House approved the conference report.

Only Sen. Hank Braden of New Orleans voiced some opposition in the upper chamber, but he, too, voted for the report.

Braden said he felt deletion of the requirement on the district attorneys “would turn the measure into one of selective enforcement.”