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Cell Phone Use and Texting While Driving Laws

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STATES	HAND-HELD BAN	ALL CELL PHONE BAN	TEXTING BAN	ENFORCEMENT	CRASH DATA COLLECTION
Alabama	No	Drivers age 16 and 17 who have held an intermediate license for less than 6 months.	No	Not applicable	
Alaska	No	No	All drivers	Primary	Yes
Arizona	No	School bus drivers	No	Primary	
Arkansas	No	School bus drivers, drivers younger than 18	All drivers	Primary for texting by all drivers and cell phone use by school bus drivers; secondary for cell phone use by young drivers	Yes
California	All drivers	School and transit bus drivers and drivers younger than 18	All drivers	Primary	Yes
Colorado	No	Drivers younger than 18	All drivers	Primary	Yes
Connecticut	All drivers	Learner's permit holders, drivers younger than 18, and school bus drivers	All drivers	Primary	
Delaware	All drivers (effective 01/02/11)	Learner's permit and intermediate license holders and school bus drivers	All drivers (effective 01/02/11)	Primary	Yes
District of Columbia	All drivers	School bus drivers and learner's permit holders	All drivers	Primary	Yes
Florida	No	No	No	Not applicable	Yes
Georgia	Drivers younger than 18 (effective 07/01/10)	School bus drivers. Drivers younger than 18.	All drivers (effective 07/01/10)	Primary	Yes
Hawaii	No	No	No	Not applicable	
Idaho	No	No	No	Not applicable	Yes***
Illinois	Drivers in construction and school speed zones	Learner's permit holders younger than 19, drivers younger than 19, and school bus drivers	All drivers	Primary	Yes
Indiana	No	Drivers under the age of 18.	All drivers (effective 07/01/11).	Primary	Yes
Iowa	No	Learner's permit and intermediate license holders	All drivers	Secondary for texting	Yes
Kansas					

	No	Learner's permit and intermediate license holders	All drivers (effective 07/01/10)	Primary	Yes
Kentucky	No	Drivers younger than 18 (effective 07/13/10), School Bus Drivers.	All drivers (effective 07/13/10)	Primary (effective 07/13/10)	Yes
Louisiana	No	School bus drivers, learner's permit and intermediate license holders, drivers under age 18	All drivers	Primary	Yes
Maine**	No	Learner's permit and intermediate license holders	All drivers (effective 09/13/11)	Primary	Yes
Maryland	All drivers (effective 10/01/10), School Bus Drivers.	Learner's permit and intermediate license holders under 18. School bus drivers.	All drivers	Primary for texting	Yes
Massachusetts	Local option	School bus drivers, passenger bus drivers, drivers younger than 18.	All drivers (effective 09/30/10)	Primary	Yes
Michigan	Local option	No	All drivers (effective 07/01/10)	Primary (effective 07/01/10)	Yes
Minnesota	No	School bus drivers, learner's permit holders, and provisional license holders during the first 12 months after licensing	All drivers	Primary	Yes
Mississippi	No	School bus drivers.	Learner's permit holders and intermediate license holders	Primary	Yes
Missouri	No	No	Drivers 21 years of age or younger	Primary	
Montana	No	No	No	Not applicable	Yes
Nebraska	No	Learner's permit and intermediate license holders younger than 18	Learner's permit and intermediate license holders younger than 18 All drivers	Secondary	Yes
Nevada	All drivers (effective 01/01/12)	No	All drivers (effective 01/01/12)	Not applicable	Yes
New Hampshire	No	No	All drivers	Primary	
New Jersey	All drivers	School bus drivers, and learner's permit and intermediate license holders	All drivers	Primary	Yes
New Mexico	Local option	Learners permit and intermediate license holders.	No	Not applicable	Yes
New York	All drivers	No	All drivers	Primary	Yes
North Carolina	No	Drivers younger than 18 and school bus drivers	All drivers	Primary	
North Dakota	Drivers younger than 18	Drivers younger than 18 (effective 01/01/12)	All drivers (effective 08/01/11)	Primary (effective 08/01/11)	Yes

	(effective 01/01/12)				
Ohio	Local option	No	No	Not applicable	
Oklahoma	Learner's permit and intermediate license holders, school bus drivers and public transit drivers (effective 11/01/10)	School Bus Drivers and Public Transit Drivers (effective 11/01/10).	Learner's permit holders, intermediate license holders, school bus drivers and public transit drivers (effective 11/01/10)	Primary	Yes
Oregon	All drivers	Drivers younger than 18	All drivers	Primary	Yes
Pennsylvania	Local option	No	All drivers	Primary	Yes
Rhode Island	No	School bus drivers and drivers younger than 18	All drivers	Primary	Yes
South Carolina	No	No	No	Not applicable	Yes***
South Dakota	No	No	No	Not applicable	Yes
Tennessee	No	School bus drivers, and learner's permit and intermediate license holders	All drivers	Primary	Yes
Texas	Drivers in school crossing zones	Bus drivers. Drivers younger than 18. (09/01/11)	Bus drivers when a passenger 17 and younger is present; intermediate license holders for first 12 months, drivers in school crossing zones	Primary	Yes
Utah	See footnote*	No	All drivers	Primary for texting; secondary for talking on hand-held phone	Yes
Vermont	No	Drivers younger than 18 shall not use any portable electronic device while driving.	All drivers	Primary	
Virgin Islands	Yes				Yes
Virginia	No	Drivers younger than 18 and school bus drivers	All drivers	Secondary; primary for school bus drivers	Yes
Washington	All drivers	Learners permit and intermediate license holders.	All drivers	Primary	Yes
West Virginia	No	Drivers younger than 18 who hold either a learner's permit or an intermediate license	Drivers younger than 18 who hold either a learner's permit or an intermediate license	Primary	
Wisconsin	No	No	All drivers (effective 12/01/10)	Primary (effective 12/01/10)	
Wyoming	No	No	All drivers	Primary	Yes
Total	All drivers: 9 states and District of Columbia.	School Bus drivers: 19 states and District of Columbia. Teen drivers: 30 states and District of Columbia.	All Drivers: 35 states and District of Columbia.	Primary for all drivers texting: 32.	36 and U.S. Virgin Islands and District of Columbia.

Source: AAA, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, NCSL 2011.

Governor's Highway Safety Association

. * Utah considers speaking on a cell phone, without a hands-free device, to be an offense only if a driver is also committing some other moving violation (other than speeding).

** Maine has a law that makes driving while distracted a traffic infraction. 29-A M.R.S.A. Sec. 2117.

*** Listed as a part of contributing factors

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