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Cell Phone Use and Texting While Driving Laws

Updated December 2011

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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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