



## State Distracted Driving Laws

State	LAWS							
	Text Messaging Ban	Statewide Hand-held Cell Phone Ban	Teen Driver Ban on Cell Phones	Distracted/Negligent Driving	Data Collection	Distracted Driving Study	State Preemption on Cell Phones	School Bus Driver Ban on Cell Phones
Alabama <sup>5 6</sup>			√					
Alaska	√				√			
Arizona <sup>1</sup>								√
Arkansas <sup>2 3</sup>	√		√ <sup>3</sup>		√		√	√
California <sup>2 4</sup>	√	√	√		√			√
Colorado	√		√		√			
Connecticut	√	√	√	√	√			√
Delaware	√	√	√		√	√		√
District of Columbia	√	√	√	√	√			√
Florida						√	√	
Georgia	√		√		√			√
Hawaii <sup>1 6</sup>						√		
Idaho <sup>5</sup>								
Illinois <sup>1 6</sup>	√		√		√			√
Indiana	√ <sup>7</sup>		√		√			
Iowa <sup>6 8</sup>	√		√		√		√	
Kansas	√		√		√			
Kentucky	√		√				√	√

<sup>1</sup> In Phoenix, Arizona, Evanston, Illinois, Honolulu and Kaua'i, Hawaii, Butte, Montana, and El Paso, Texas, drivers are banned from text messaging and using hand-held cell phones. Maui, Hawaii has a ban on handheld cell phone use for all drivers and a complete cell phone ban for novice drivers.

<sup>2</sup> In Arkansas, California, Maryland, Nebraska, and Virginia, the teen driver cell phone ban is secondarily enforced.

<sup>3</sup> Arkansas prohibits the use of a handheld wireless telephone in school zones and work zones, effective October 1, 2011. Arkansas' teen driver ban also prohibits drivers age 18-21 from using handheld wireless devices.

<sup>4</sup> In California, rental cars must be equipped with safe operating instructions for cell phones.



## State Distracted Driving Laws

State	LAWS							
	Text Messaging Ban	Statewide Hand-held Cell Phone Ban	Teen Driver Ban on Cell Phones	Distracted/Negligent Driving	Data Collection	Distracted Driving Study	State Preemption on Cell Phones	School Bus Driver Ban on Cell Phones
Louisiana	√		√ <sup>9</sup>		√	√	√	√
Maine	√ <sup>10</sup>		√	√	√			
Maryland <sup>2</sup>	√	√ <sup>11</sup>	√		√			√ <sup>11</sup>
Massachusetts	√		√		√			√
Michigan <sup>12</sup>	√				√		√	
Minnesota	√		√		√			√
Mississippi			√ <sup>13</sup>		√		√	√ <sup>13</sup>
Missouri			√ <sup>14</sup>				√	
Montana <sup>1 5</sup>					√			
Nebraska <sup>2 8</sup>	√		√		√			
Nevada					√		√	
New Hampshire	√			√ <sup>14</sup>				
New Jersey	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
New Mexico <sup>15</sup>			√ <sup>15</sup>		√	√		

<sup>5</sup> In Huntsville, Madison, Decatur, Prattville, and Athens, Alabama, Meridian and Twin Falls, Idaho, Missoula, Montana, Bismarck and Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Austin, Galveston, McAllen, Missouri City, and Stephenville, Texas, text messaging while driving is prohibited.

<sup>6</sup> In Montgomery, Alabama, Hawaii County and O'ahu, Hawaii, Chicago and Highland Park, Illinois, Dubuque, Iowa, and Bensalem, Bethlehem, Conshohocken, Erie, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Philadelphia, West Conshohocken and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, drivers are banned from using hand-held cellular phones. A handheld cell phone ban in Allentown, Pennsylvania was overturned by a judge May 4, 2011 as inconsistent with state law.

<sup>7</sup> Indiana's texting ban takes effect July 1, 2011.

<sup>8</sup> In Iowa, Nebraska, New York, and Virginia, the text messaging bans are secondarily enforced.

<sup>9</sup> In Louisiana, drivers 17 and younger and drivers who have had a license for less than 1 year are subject to a primary, complete ban on the use of cell phones. Learner's and intermediate license holders are subject to a secondary ban on the use of hand-held cell phones.

<sup>10</sup> Maine's texting ban will take effect September 13, 2011.

<sup>11</sup> Maryland's handheld cell phone ban and school bus driver cell phone ban are secondary offenses.



## State Distracted Driving Laws

State	LAWS							
	Text Messaging Ban	Statewide Hand-held Cell Phone Ban	Teen Driver Ban on Cell Phones	Distracted/Negligent Driving	Data Collection	Distracted Driving Study	State Preemption on Cell Phones	School Bus Driver Ban on Cell Phones
New York <sup>8</sup>	√	√			√	√		
North Carolina	√		√			√		√
North Dakota <sup>5</sup>	√ <sup>17</sup>				√			
Ohio <sup>18</sup>								
Oklahoma			√	√ <sup>19</sup>	√		√	√
Oregon	√	√	√		√		√	
Pennsylvania <sup>6</sup>					√			
Rhode Island	√		√		√			√
South Carolina								
South Dakota					√			
Tennessee	√		√		√			√
Texas <sup>1 5</sup>			√		√			√
Utah <sup>20</sup>	√				√		√	
Vermont	√		√					
Virginia <sup>2 8</sup>	√		√		√	√		√
Washington	√	√	√		√		√	
West Virginia			√					
Wisconsin <sup>21</sup>	√							
Wyoming <sup>22</sup>	√				√			
<b>Total (Includes D.C)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>

<sup>12</sup> In Detroit, drivers are banned using hand-held cell phones. In Troy, drivers are prohibited from using handheld cell phones or engaging in any activity that diverts driver attention.

<sup>13</sup> Mississippi prohibits text messaging by intermediate license, temporary learning permit, and temporary driving permit holders. Mississippi's school bus driver cell phone ban takes effect July 1, 2011.

<sup>14</sup> Missouri has a text messaging ban for drivers under 21.



## **State Distracted Driving Laws**

<sup>15</sup> In New Hampshire, drivers are accountable for distractions that contribute to a crash. Motorists can be fined \$250 to \$1000.

<sup>16</sup> In Santa Fe and Las Cruces, New Mexico, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones. New Mexico's teen driver cell phone ban takes effect July 1, 2011.

<sup>17</sup> North Dakota's texting ban takes effect August 1, 2011.

<sup>18</sup> In Brooklyn, North Olmsted and Walton Hills, Ohio, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones. In Akron, Bowling Green, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Huron, Toledo and Zanesville, drivers are prohibited from text messaging while driving. In North Royalton and South Euclid, drivers are banned from both handheld cell phone use and texting messaging while driving.

<sup>19</sup> Oklahoma's distracted driving law allows a police officer to issue a citation for not devoting full time and attention to driving if the officer observes driving in such a manner that poses a danger to other persons on the roadway or involved in an accident.

<sup>20</sup> Utah has a law against careless driving, for which a person can be charged if they commit a moving violation other than speeding while using a hand-held cell phone or engaging in other distracting activities.

<sup>21</sup> In Marshfield, Wisconsin, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones.

<sup>22</sup> In Cheyenne, Wyoming, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones.