



Distracted Driving Laws

State	Text Messaging Ban	Statewide Hand-held Cell Phone Ban	Teen Driver Ban on Cell Phones	Comprehensive Distracted Driving Law	State Preemption on Cell Phones	School Bus Driver Ban on Cell Phones
Alabama ¹	√		√ ²			
Alaska	√					
Arizona ^{1 3}			√ ^{4 6}			√
Arkansas ⁵	√		√ ⁶		√	√
California ⁷	√	√	√ ⁶			√
Colorado	√		√			
Connecticut	√	√	√	√		√
Delaware	√	√	√	√		√
District of Columbia	√	√	√	√		√
Florida	√ ⁸				√	
Georgia	√		√			√
Hawaii ⁹	√	√	√			
Idaho ¹	√					

¹ In Montgomery, Alabama, Coconino County, Arizona, Sandpoint and Columbia Falls, Idaho, and Manhattan, Kansas, drivers are banned from using hand-held cellular phones.

² Teen hands-free phone use is permitted in Alabama, and Oklahoma.

³ In Flagstaff, Phoenix and Tuscon, Arizona, and Missoula, Montana, text messaging while driving is prohibited.

⁴ Effective June 30, 2018

⁵ Arkansas prohibits the use of a handheld wireless telephone in school zones and work zones. Arkansas’ teen driver ban also prohibits drivers age 18-21 from using handheld wireless devices.

⁶ In Arizona, Arkansas, California, Nebraska, South Dakota and Virginia, the teen driver cell phone ban is secondarily enforced.

⁷ In California, rental cars must be equipped with safe operating instructions for cell phones.

⁸ In Florida, Nebraska, Ohio, and South Dakota, the text messaging bans are secondarily enforced.

⁹ Maui, Hawaii has a complete cell phone ban for novice drivers.



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Illinois ¹⁰	√	√	√			√
Indiana	√		√			
Iowa	√		√		√	
Kansas ¹	√		√			
Kentucky	√		√		√	√
Louisiana ¹¹	√		√ ¹¹		√	√
Maine	√		√	√		
Maryland	√	√	√			√
Massachusetts	√		√			√
Michigan ¹²	√		√		√	√
Minnesota	√		√			√
Mississippi	√				√	√
Missouri ¹³					√	
Montana ^{3 14}						
Nebraska	√ ⁸		√ ⁶			√ ¹⁵

¹⁰ In Illinois, drivers are prohibited from using any cell phone in a work zone or school zone.

¹¹ 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. All drivers are prohibited from using cell phones while driving in school zones during posted hours.

¹² In Detroit and Troy, drivers are banned using hand-held cell phones.

¹³ Missouri has a text messaging ban for drivers under 21. In Chesterfield, Kirkwood, Lake St. Louis, Manchester, and St. Charles, texting while driving is banned for all drivers.

¹⁴ In Billings, Butte, Bozeman, Columbia Falls, Great Falls, Helena, and Whitefish, Montana, drivers are banned from text messaging and using hand-held cell phones. In Anaconda-Deer Lodge, Baker, Butte-Silver Bow, and Hamilton, drivers are banned from handheld cell phone use.

¹⁵ In Nebraska and Utah, the school bus driver ban on cell phone use is established via regulation.



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Nevada	√	√				
New Hampshire	√	√	√	√ ¹⁶		
New Jersey	√	√	√		√	√
New Mexico ¹⁷	√		√			
New York	√	√				
North Carolina	√		√			√
North Dakota ¹⁸	√		√	√		
Ohio ¹⁹	√ ⁸		√			
Oklahoma	√		√ ²	√ ²⁰	√	
Oregon	√	√	√			
Pennsylvania	√				√	
Rhode Island	√	√ ²¹	√			√
South Carolina	√				√	
South Dakota ²²	√ ⁸		√ ⁶			

¹⁶ In New Hampshire, drivers are accountable for distractions that contribute to a crash. Motorists can be fined \$250 to \$1000.

¹⁷ Prohibits the use of a handheld mobile communication device while driving a commercial motor vehicle. In Las Cruces, Rio Rancho, and Santa Fe, New Mexico, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones.

¹⁸ In North Dakota, motorists can be cited for “failure to maintain control” if they were engaged in any activity not necessary to the safe operation of the vehicle.

¹⁹ In Beachwood, Brooklyn, Marietta, North Olmsted, North Royalton, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, Walton Hills, and Woodmer, Ohio, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones. In Lyndhurst, Moreland Hills, Portsmouth and Pepper Pike, texting while driving is a standard offense.

²⁰ Oklahoma’s general 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.

²¹ Effective June 1, 2018

²² In Aberdeen and Rapid City, South Dakota, texting while driving is a standard offense. In Box Elder, handheld cell phone use is prohibited.



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Tennessee ²³	√		√			√
Texas ²⁴	√ ²⁵		√			√
Utah	√		√	√		√ ¹⁵
Vermont	√	√	√			
Virginia	√		√ ⁶			√ ²⁶
Washington ²⁷	√	√	√	√	√	
West Virginia	√	√	√			
Wisconsin ²⁸	√		√			
Wyoming ²⁹	√					
Total	47 + D.C.	15 + D.C.	39 + D.C.	8 + D.C.	13	22 + D.C.

²³ Tennessee prohibits handheld cell phone use in school zones statewide.

²⁴ Handheld cell phone use is prohibited in school zones statewide. Texting while driving is prohibited in Arlington, Canyon City, Denton, Edinburg, Farmer’s Branch, Galveston, Grand Prairie, Magnolia, McAllen, Missouri City, Nacogdoches, and Pecos. Texting and handheld cell phone use while driving is prohibited in Amarillo, Austin, Corpus Christi, El Paso, San Antonio, and Stephenville.

²⁵ Effective Sept. 1, 2017

²⁶ Virginia allows school bus drivers to use, in addition to two-way radio devices, wireless telecommunications devices that are hands-free or similar to two-way radio devices to communicate with school or public safety officials.

²⁷ Washington prohibits drivers from holding a personal electronic device while operating a motor vehicle, including while stopped. Washington also prohibits “any activity not related to the actual operation of a motor vehicle,” enforced on a secondary basis.

²⁸ Prohibited use of a wireless telephone while driving in a highway maintenance/construction zone, or in a utility work area. In Marshfield, Wausau, and Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones.

²⁹ In Cheyenne and Green River, Wyoming, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones.