

TEXTING AND DRIVING

LEGISLATOR NOTICE

The Legislative Services Division is required to offer a brief history on the subject matter of a bill draft request prior to drafting (5-4-105, MCA; [Chapter 309, Laws of 2017](#)). The history must include related legislation introduced over the last five sessions and hyperlinks to the bill, hearing information, and fiscal notes. The legislation links below open to the page showing the status and history of bills introduced on this topic in the past. The bill text and any related fiscal notes can be accessed through the link at the top of that page.

Legislation can be complex and this history is not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the drafter of the requested bill for more information.

Background Materials and Research

Topic Summary: Legislators have introduced bills limiting or prohibiting texting while driving in general during recent sessions. In 2017, the House Transportation Committee considered a bill that would limit texting while driving in work zones and school zones. Legislators have also proposed bills limiting or prohibiting local authorities from passing ordinances restricting texting while driving.

Introduced Legislation

2017

[House Bill 180](#) – (H) Died in Process -- AN ACT PROHIBITING USE OF INTERACTIVE WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN SCHOOL ZONES OR WORK ZONES; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AND PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-8-715, MCA.

[House Bill 194](#) — (H) Died in Process -- AN ACT PROHIBITING LOCAL RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 7-14-4116, 61-8-103, AND 61-12-101, MCA

[House Bill 380](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee – AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE TO WRITE, SEND, OR READ A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION WHILE A PERSON IS OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES AND EXEMPTIONS; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ON DISTRACTED DRIVING IN ITS DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND DRIVER'S LICENSE MANUAL; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-5-110, MCA.

[House Bill 562](#) – (H) Vetoed by Governor -- AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN USES OF MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES WHILE DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE FROM LOCAL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 7-14-4116, 61-8-103, AND 61-12-101, MCA.

2015

[House Bill 297](#) – (S) 2nd Reading Indefinitely Postponed -- AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE ~~OR IMMEDIATE PHYSICAL POSSESSION OF A HAND-HELD ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS~~ OF A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE TO WRITE, SEND, OR READ A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION WHILE A PERSON IS OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES AND EXEMPTIONS; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ON DISTRACTED DRIVING IN ITS DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND DRIVER'S LICENSE MANUAL; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-5-110, MCA.

2011

[Senate Bill 251](#) – (S) Died in Process -- AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF ~~HAND-HELD MOBILE TELEPHONES AND MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICES~~ TO WRITE, SEND, OR READ A TEXT-BASED COMMUNICATION WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE; ~~PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS TO THE RESTRICTION ON USE;~~ AND PROVIDING A PENALTY.

2009

[House Bill 49](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee – AN ACT RESTRICTING USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN DEFINED AREAS

[Senate Bill 278](#) – (S) Died in Process -- AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF HAND-HELD MOBILE TELEPHONES AND MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS TO THE RESTRICTION ON USE; AND PROVIDING A PENALTY.