

# Texting Ban for All Drivers

With bipartisan support, the Legislature voted to ban texting for all drivers. In addition, drivers under 18 years are prohibited from using any electronic communication device or electronic entertainment device, such as talking on cell phones.

The youngest and newest drivers have the more severe prohibition so that they can learn to drive with the least distractions. The electronic entertainment devices can be used if they are operated through permanently installed equipment in the vehicle, such as GPS devices.

Adult drivers are not allowed to read, write, or send text messages but they can talk on cell phones. A member of a public safety agency, a health care professional in the course of an emergency, and a person receiving safety-related information such as an amber alerts are exempt. Navigations systems are also exempted.

The \$30 tickets for violating this law will begin to be issued on July 1, 2011. Until then, law enforcement will only issue warnings. The ban on texting is a secondary enforcement, meaning that law enforcement cannot pull over a driver just for that violation. The driver needs to be violating another law, such as not wearing a seat belt or swerving on the road.

Local governments are not allowed to pass laws, or to continue to enforce laws, pertaining to electronic communication devices or electronic entertainment devices. The law, House File 2456, goes into effect July 1, 2010.