

# TRANSPORTATION

IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

END OF SESSION, 2010

## **TEXTING BAN**

Drivers under the age of 18 years cannot use an electronic entertainment device or an electronic communication device while driving, unless it is installed in the vehicle or operated through permanently installed equipment. Drivers 18 years and older cannot use a hand-held communication device to read, write, or send a text message, but can use the device to make a phone call. The penalty for all ages is a \$30 fine, with harsher penalties if in an accident with serious death or injury. Fines begin July 1, 2011, and healthcare professionals and members of public safety agencies are exempted. Local governments are not allowed to adopt or continue to enforce local ordinances

HF 2456 – Signed; Effective 7-1-10

## **PROTECTING AUTO DEALERS**

Puts in language stating that laws from other jurisdictions cannot be applied to Iowa's auto dealers. Also, contracts with franchises cannot require a dealer to offer only one make of autos.

SF 2234 – Signed; Effective 7-1-10

Does not allow a motor vehicle manufacturer, distributor, or importer to reduce the amount of compensation, or to disallow the claim for warranty work done by the dealer, if it is submitted within 60 days from the date that work was completed.

SF 2146 – Signed; Effective 7-1-10

## **ELECTRONIC ISSUANCE OF TITLES & REGISTRATION**

Requires the Department of Transportation to conduct a study of how to implement a uniform statewide system that will allow for electronic registration and titling. The department must report back to the general assembly by December 1, 2010.

SF 2273 – Signed; Effective 4-7-10

## **SEAT BELTS**

Requires all persons under the age of 18 years to use either a safety seat or seat belt. An exemption is made for the backseat if all seat belts are already being used. If a person age 14 years or older is not using a seat belt, they will get the ticket, not the driver of the vehicle.

SF 2381 – To Governor; Effective 7-1-10

## **TRANSPORTATION OMNIBUS BILL**

Brings all vehicles that have been modified to accommodate a person with a disability under the \$60 registration fee. Specifies that business trade trucks, as defined in the TIME-21 law, applies to model year 2010 trucks and newer. Allows for parents needing a persons with disability placard for a child under the age of one year to get that placard with out supplying a social security number. Clarifies that local governments still retain local authority regarding limousine and taxi routes.

SF 2246 – Signed; Effective 7-1-10

**MOTOR CARRIER  
CONTRACTS**

Prohibits certain indemnity clauses in motor carrier contracts that hold one the parties harmless, regardless of their actions or omissions.  
SF 2220 – To Governor; Effective 7-1-10

**ATVs AND OFF-ROAD  
VEHICLES**

Allows for ATV operators, while driving the ATV, to stop to get fuel or food or non-alcoholic drink. Adds off-road utility vehicles to the definition of ATVs for the purpose of traveling along designated routes by cities or counties, and to stop off at gas stations.  
SF 2381 – To Governor; Effective 7-1-10

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**OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST**

HF 2512      Allows for increased weight limits on certain commercial vehicles. [To Governor; Effective 7-1-10]

HF 2466      Allows driver's education teachers to be involved in one accident in a two-year period, as long as the accident does not involve serious injury or death. [Signed; Effective 3-19-10]