

TARGET ZERO New Distracted Driving Law



Effective July 23, 2017



Research shows that phone conversations reduce visual attention. Pass your phone to the passenger, put it in the glove box, or turn it off before you drive.

No hand-held cell phone use

- Drivers may not use hand-held cell phones while they are driving, stopped in traffic, or at a stop light. This includes tablets, laptops, games, or other hand-held electronic devices.
- Drivers may not watch video while they drive.
- This does not apply if a driver is contacting emergency services.
- Drivers can use hand-held devices when they are parked or out-of-the-flow of traffic.

Hands-free use is allowed

- Hands-free use, such as through Bluetooth, is allowed as is a single touch to start a function. Start GPS or music before you drive.

Dangerously distracted

- “Dangerously distracted” means a person who engages in any activity not related to the actual operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that interferes with the safe operation of such motor vehicle on any highway. If the driver does commit a traffic offense because the driver is dangerously distracted, then they are subject to an additional \$99 fine.

Not included

- Some things are not included in the law. Transit and emergency vehicle drivers are exempt. Drivers of commercial vehicles must follow federal laws.
- Two-way radio, citizens band radio, or amateur radio equipment are not included in the law.

Costs

- The first ticket will cost at least \$136. Get a ticket again within five years, and those tickets cost at least \$234. Unlike current law, which exempts cell phone violations from being reported to insurance companies, all violations will be available to insurance companies.