



Distracted Driving Laws

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

¹ In Montgomery, Alabama, Sandpoint, Idaho, Dubuque, Iowa, and Green River, Wyoming, drivers are banned from using hand-held cellular phones.

² Alabama’s statewide texting ban will become effective August 1, 2012. In Adamsville, Athens, Birmingham, Daphne, Decatur, Elberta, Fairhope, Florence, Gadsen, Hanceville, Huntsville, Jacksonville, Lipscomb, Madison, Midfield, Prattville, Roanoke, Scottsboro, Spanish Fort, Springville, and Vestavia Hills, Alabama, texting while driving is prohibited.

³ In Tuscon, Arizona, Meridian and Twin Falls, Idaho, Missoula, Montana, Columbia, South Carolina, and Arlington, Austin, Galveston, McAllen, Missouri City, San Antonio, and Stephenville, Texas, text messaging while driving is prohibited.

⁴ In Phoenix, Arizona, Billings, Butte, and Helena, Montana, drivers are banned from text messaging and using hand-held cell phones. Maui, Hawaii has a complete cell phone ban for novice drivers.

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 Arkansas, California, Maryland, Nebraska, 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.



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Hawaii ⁴	8	8				√		
Idaho ¹	√ ⁹							
Illinois ¹⁰	√		√		√			√
Indiana	√		√		√			
Iowa ¹	√ ¹¹		√		√		√	
Kansas	√		√		√			
Kentucky	√		√				√	√
Louisiana	√		√ ¹²		√	√	√	√
Maine	√		√	√	√			
Maryland	√	√ ¹³	√ ⁶		√			√ ¹³
Massachusetts	√		√		√			√
Michigan ¹⁴	√				√		√	
Minnesota	√		√		√			√
Mississippi			√ ¹⁵		√		√	√

⁸ All of Hawaii’s counties ban handheld cell phone use and texting while driving, though there is no state-wide law.

⁹ Idaho’s statewide texting ban will become effective July 1, 2012. Texting while driving is prohibited in Meridian and Twin Falls.

¹⁰ In Illinois, drivers are prohibited from using any cell phone in a work zone or school zone. Handheld cell phone use while driving is prohibited in Antioch, Chicago, Deerfield, Highland Park, and Waukegan, Illinois. Handheld cell phone use and texting while driving is prohibited in Evanston, Illinois.

¹¹ In Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio, and Virginia, the text messaging bans are secondarily enforced.

¹² 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.

¹³ Maryland’s handheld cell phone ban and school bus driver cell phone ban are secondary offenses.

¹⁴ In Detroit, drivers are banned using hand-held cell phones. In Troy, drivers are prohibited from using handheld cell phones or engaging in any activity that diverts driver attention.



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Missouri			√ ¹⁶				√	
Montana ^{3 4}					√			
Nebraska	√ ¹¹		√ ⁶		√			
Nevada	√	√			√			
New Hampshire	√			√ ¹⁷				
New Jersey	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
New Mexico ¹⁸			√		√	√		
New York	√	√			√	√		
North Carolina	√		√			√		√
North Dakota	√		√		√			
Ohio ¹⁹	√ ¹¹		√					
Oklahoma			√ ²⁰	√ ²¹	√		√	√
Oregon	√	√	√		√			

¹⁵ Mississippi prohibits text messaging by intermediate license, temporary learning permit, and temporary driving permit holders.

¹⁶ Missouri has a text messaging ban for drivers under 21.

¹⁷ In New Hampshire, drivers are accountable for distractions that contribute to a crash. Motorists can be fined \$250 to \$1000.

¹⁸ In Santa Fe and Las Cruces, New Mexico, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones.

¹⁹ In Brooklyn, North Olmsted and Walton Hills, Ohio, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones. In Akron, Belpre, Bexley, Bowling Green, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Delaware, Dublin, Fairview Park, Hilliard, Huron, Kettering, Lyndhurst, Summit County, Toledo, Wauseon, Worthington, and Zanesville, drivers are prohibited from text messaging while driving. In North Royalton and South Euclid, drivers are banned from both handheld cell phone use and texting messaging while driving. Ohio's texting and teen wireless bans are effective August 28, 2012.

²⁰ Oklahoma prohibits learner's permit and intermediate license holders from using a handheld electronic device while driving.

²¹ Oklahoma's 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.



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Pennsylvania	√				√		√	
Rhode Island	√		√		√			√
South Carolina ³								
South Dakota					√			
Tennessee	√		√		√			√
Texas ²²			√		√			√
Utah ²³	√				√			
Vermont	√		√					
Virginia	√ ¹¹		√ ⁶		√	√		√
Washington	√	√	√		√		√	
West Virginia	√ ²⁴	√ ²⁴	√					
Wisconsin ²⁵	√		√ ²⁶					
Wyoming ^{1 27}	√				√			
Total (Includes D.C)	40	11	36	5	37	9	12	21

²² Handheld cell phone use is prohibited in school zones statewide. Texting while driving is prohibited in Arlington, Austin, Galveston, McAllen, Missouri City, San Antonio, and Stephenville. Texting and handheld cell phone use while driving is prohibited in El Paso.

²³ Utah has a law against careless driving, for which a person can be charged if they commit a moving violation other than speeding while using a hand-held cell phone or engaging in other distracting activities.

²⁴ West Virginia's texting and handheld bans become effective July 1, 2012. The handheld ban is a secondary offense until July 1, 2013.

²⁵ In Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones.

²⁶ Wisconsin's teen driver cell phone ban becomes effective November 1, 2012.

²⁷ In Cheyenne, Wyoming, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones.