

HB 1565 -- FAIR FARE PASSENGER SAFETY ACT

SPONSOR: Kratky

This bill establishes the Fair Fare Passenger Safety Act of 2014 which prohibits any person who is operating a moving motor vehicle upon the highways or public roadways of the state and receiving compensation for the transportation of one or more passengers who are currently occupying the motor vehicle from using a hand-held electronic wireless communications device to send, read, or write a text or electronic message or from making or taking part in a telephone call.

Certain individuals are exempt from the provisions of the bill including:

- (1) A person operating an authorized emergency vehicle;
- (2) A person using the device to report illegal activity, summon medical or other emergency help, prevent injury to a person or property, or relay information between a transit or for-hire operator and that operator's dispatcher when the device is permanently affixed to the vehicle;
- (3) A person using a voice-operated technology device to make or take part in a telephone call;
- (4) An operator of a vehicle that is lawfully parked or stopped;
- (5) An emergency worker while performing his or her official duties, including law enforcement officers, members of the fire department, or operators of public or private ambulances;
- (6) A person using a global positioning (GPS) or wireless communications device used to transmit or receive data as part of a digital dispatch system;
- (7) A person using a two-way radio transmitter or receiver by a licensee of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service; and
- (8) A person using a hand-held mobile telephone in conjunction with a voice-operated or hands-free device.

Anyone violating the provisions of the bill will be guilty of an infraction which will be deemed a moving violation for the purpose of assessing points against a person's driver's license. Any city or county has the authority to adopt ordinances or regulations that are equivalent to, but not more restrictive than these provisions.