

HB 1474 -- HANDHELD WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES

SPONSOR: Runions

This bill prohibits the use of specified electronic communication devices while driving. Exceptions for emergency vehicles, roadside assistance, emergency services contact, and operator dispatch operations are specified in the bill. Certain hands-free communications devices are allowed for individuals 18 years of age or older. A violation of the bill is punishable by a \$50 fine unless it occurs in specified work or school zones in which case the fine shall be \$100.

A violation is not a moving violation for purposes of point assessment, but is a serious traffic violation under the commercial driver's license rules and regulations.

The state preempts the field regulating the use of hand-held electronic wireless communication devices by the operators of motor vehicles. The provisions of this section shall supercede any local laws, ordinances, orders, rules, or regulations enacted by a county, municipality, or other political subdivision to regulate the use of hand-held electronic wireless communicated devices by the operator of a motor vehicle.

The bill also prohibits the use of a hand-held electronic wireless communication device and a hands-free electronic wireless communication device by a person under the age of 18, or with an instruction permit or intermediate license regardless of age, while driving.

This bill is similar to HB 1531 (2020).