

DISTRACTED DRIVING. laws by state

STATE	LAW	PENALTY and FINES
Alabama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use (handheld and hands-free) for novice drivers 16 or 17 w/intermediate license under 6 months (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st offense: \$25 fine, increasing to \$50, and then \$75 plus two points on license for subsequent violations.
Alaska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text and drive only: Class A Misdemeanor, up to \$10,000, and 1 year in prison. Injure someone: Class C Felony up to \$50,000 and 5 years in prison. Seriously injure someone: Class B Felony, up to \$100,000, and 10 years in prison. Kill someone: Class A Felony up to \$250,000 and 20 years in prison.
Arizona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers with a learner's permit for any reason except during an emergency. This also applies during the first 6 months of obtaining a regular license (effective 6/30/18). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Tucson and Phoenix, fines are between \$100-200.
Arkansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for drivers age 18-20 years including any electronic wireless device and accessing, reading, posting on social networking sites (effective 90 days after legislature adjournment: 5 /1/17) (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 18 (<i>secondary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill increases the fines up to \$250 for first offense and \$500 for each subsequent violation. Fines doubles if the person is involved in a collision or accident. Fines for all drivers texting can be as much as \$100 and up to 10 days in prison. Fines for drivers under 18 using any cell phone device up to \$50.
California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 18 (<i>secondary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st offense - \$20. \$50 for subsequent convictions, with penalty assessments, the fine can be more than triple the base fine amount.
Colorado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 18 (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers under 18 (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texting fines increased to \$300 effective 6/1/17
Connecticut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 18 (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). General Law for distracted driving prohibiting any activity not related to actual operation of vehicle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld fines range from \$125 for first offense to \$250 for a 2nd offense, and \$400 for a 3rd or subsequent offense. In addition the DMV will suspend the driver's license or permit of a 16-17 year old for 30 days to 6 months for any conviction of a teen driving restriction or using a cell phone while driving. In addition, there is a \$125 license restoration fee plus court fees. Texting: 1st offense= \$100, 2nd=\$150, and 3rd=\$200
Delaware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Handheld ban for all drivers [primary]. -Ban on all cell use for all drivers [primary]. -Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers [primary]. -Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers, be they learner or intermediate [primary]. -Ban on all texting for all drivers [primary]. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fines range from \$50-\$100. Serial offenders as much as \$300. *Base fine \$100 for 1st offense, then \$200-\$300 actual payouts are higher after fees.

DISTRACTED DRIVING laws by state

STATE	LAW	PENALTY and FINES
Washington DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Distracted driving in general is prohibited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st time fees are suspended if they submit proof that they acquired hands free device. Repeat offenders \$100 each. Increased fines levied on drivers for distracted drivers and provides that 3 violations within 18 months result in a suspended license. Criminal penalties for distracted driving offenses that result in death, substantial bodily harm, and property damage greater than or equal to \$10,000 (effective 2/18/17).
Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texting is prohibited for all drivers (<i>secondary</i>) Use of cell phone w/head set is permitted while driving if sound is provided through 1 ear and allows surrounding sounds to be heard with each ear. Localities are prohibited from regulating the use of commercial mobile radio services including cell phones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a crash occurs because of a moving violation and texting the driver will be penalized 6 points.
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fines up to \$150 and 1 point.
Hawaii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on hand held for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 18 (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First offense: \$200. Second offense: \$300-in the same year.
Idaho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Idaho has a "distraction in/on vehicle" attribute as part of its contributing circumstances element and officers are supposed to list the distractions in the narrative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of mobile handheld: \$75 fine. Texting: \$85. Use of mobile phones in or near a school zone: \$75 for 1st offense, \$150 for subsequent violations.
Illinois	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 19 (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on cell phone use in a school zone or a highway construction zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fines start at \$75, and go up to \$120.
Indiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 21 (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texting \$500.
Iowa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on texting for all drivers (primary) (effective 7/1/17). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (restrictive or intermediate license) (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Novice drivers: \$50 fine. All drivers: \$30 fine. If serious injury is caused in a crash due to distraction, \$500 fine, suspension of license for 90 days, or both. If death is caused, \$1,000 fine, suspension of license for 180 days.
Kansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all novice drivers: learner or intermediate (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$60 fine.

DISTRACTED DRIVING laws by state

STATE	LAW	PENALTY and FINES
Kentucky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fines: \$25 then \$50. Texting: \$25, then \$50 court cost.
Louisiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for all drivers with a learner's permit or intermediate license regardless of age (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (first year of license) (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). School zones no wireless devices during posted hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texting: 1st offense \$175, and \$500 thereafter. For adults: 1st \$500, then \$1,000 with possible license suspension for minors and school zone violators.
Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all novice drivers: learner or intermediate [primary]. Ban on all texting for all drivers [primary]. Maine has passed a law making it illegal to drive while distracted in the state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First fine \$100, and increased for subsequent offenders.
Maryland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (handheld and hands-free) (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fines range from \$40-\$100.
Massachusetts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (handheld and hands-free) [primary]. Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (handheld and hands-free) [primary]. Ban on texting for all drivers [primary]. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texting: 1st: \$100, 2nd: \$250, and public transportation: \$500. Drivers under 18 using a cell phone: \$100, 60 day suspension.
Michigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (Level 1 and Level 2 License) (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texting: \$100 first offense, \$200 subsequent offense.
Minnesota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use (handheld and hands-free) for bus drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use (handheld and hands-free) for novice drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-text fines go up to \$300.
Mississippi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (handheld and hands-free) (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for novice drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violation is a misdemeanor with a fine up to \$500, if an accident results, no more than \$1,000.
Missouri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on texting for novice drivers under 21 (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st offense \$25, then \$50/\$75/\$100- with points. Possible license suspension for serial offenders.
Nebraska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use (handheld and hands-free) for novice drivers under 18 with a learner's permit or intermediate license (<i>secondary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>secondary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st offense: \$200, 2nd offense: \$300, 3rd offense: \$500 plus 3 points

DISTRACTED DRIVING laws by state

STATE	LAW	PENALTY and FINES
Nevada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on hand held for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texting: 1st offense: \$50, 2nd offense: \$100 within 7 years, 3rd offense: \$250 within 7 years.
New Hampshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand held ban for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 18 (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texting fine-\$100.
New Jersey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (handheld and hands-free) (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for novice drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100 fine
New Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for in state drivers. Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (learner or provisional) (hands-free and handheld) (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st offense: \$25, 2nd offense: \$50. Distracted texting- 1st offense \$100, then \$200.
New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$150 fine plus 5 points on license as well as mandatory surcharges and fees of \$85.
North Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (handheld and hands-free) (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (handheld and hands-free) (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus drivers- Class 2 misdemeanor and \$100 fine. Checking email fine- \$100. Under 18 with provisional license- \$25. Hand held for all drivers- \$200.
North Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal to use a wireless communications device while driving (secondary) effective 8/1/17. Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (hands-free and handheld) (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a distracted driver is involved in an accident they could be fined \$100.
Ohio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 18 (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for novice drivers (<i>secondary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult driver fines up to \$150. Novice driver fines \$150 and 60 day suspension- if multiple violations fines go to \$300 with possible loss of driver's license for a year.
Oklahoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on texting for all drivers (secondary). Handheld ban for drivers with learner or intermediate license (primary). Driver education courses to include education regarding the dangers of texting while driving and the effects of being under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances while driving (bill becomes effective 90 days after legislature adjourned: 5/26/17). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100 fine. Suspension or loss of license if crashes in school zone, up to \$5,000 fine if injuries, fine of \$10,000 if it causes a death.
Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for novice drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$250 plus fees for texting. Can go up to \$500.
Pennsylvania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PA standard law fine is \$50: doubled in school and construction zones First offense- \$85, 2nd- \$100, and 3rd- \$125.

DISTRACTED DRIVING laws by state

STATE	LAW	PENALTY and FINES
Rhode Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (hands-free and handheld) (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (hands-free and handheld) (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st offense \$100, 2nd offense \$150, 3rd offense \$250. Possible license suspension for serial offenses.
South Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First offenders fine is \$25.
South Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>secondary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (learner or intermediate) (<i>secondary</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine \$100.
Tennessee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (handheld and hands-free) [<i>primary</i>]. Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers (handheld and hands-free) [<i>primary</i>]. Ban on texting for all drivers [<i>primary</i>]. In any marked school zone in the state, when a warning flasher is in operation, talking on a handheld mobile telephone while the vehicle is in motion is a class C misdemeanor. However offense is not committed if the telephone is equipped with a hands-free device for drivers 18 yrs or older (effective 1/1/18). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using handheld in school zone is a class C misdemeanor punishable by a \$50 fine. Texting while driving is a class C misdemeanor and subject to a \$50 fine plus \$10 court costs.
Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers with more than 17 passengers (handheld and hands-free) [<i>primary</i>]. Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 18 (handheld and hands-free) [<i>primary</i>]. Ban on texting (reading, writing, or sending a text based on communication) while operating a moving vehicle that is not stopped [<i>primary</i>] (effective September 1, 2017). Texas has banned the use of hand held phones and texting in school zones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fines vary by city. Texting fine of not more than \$99 for first offense or \$200 for repeat offenders. If the offense cause the death or serious bodily injury of another person, the offense would be a class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$4,000, a jail term not to exceed one year, or both.
Utah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 18 (<i>primary</i>). Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Utah's law defines careless driving as committing a moving violation (other than speeding) while distracted by the use of a handheld cell phone or other activities not related to driving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caught texting up to 3 months in jail and a \$750 fine. Cause injury or death \$10,000 fine with 15 years in prison.
Vermont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on texting for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all cell phone use (handheld and hands-free) for novice drivers under 18 (<i>primary</i>). Ban on all handheld for all drivers (<i>primary</i>). Ban on using a handheld device in a designated work zone in which construction, maintenance, or utility personnel are present, or in a school zone marked with warning signs. Effective 5/5/17. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st offense \$100, \$250 thereafter within 2 years.

DISTRACTED DRIVING laws by state

STATE	LAW	PENALTY and FINES
Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers (hands-free and handheld) (primary). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 18 (hands-free and handheld) (primary). Ban on texting for all drivers (primary). H.2015 enables drivers who have a Virginia EZ Pass electronic toll collection device to make voluntary contributions to the DRIVE SMART Virginia Education Fund. Funds will be used to educate the public on issues related to safe driving, distracted road users, and other issues (effective 7/1/17). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$125 for 1st offense goes up to \$250.
Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for all drivers and all video watching while driving (primary). Ban on composing, sending, reading, viewing, accessing, browsing, transmitting, saving or retrieving email, text messages, instant messages, photographs, or other electronic data while driving (effective 90 days after legislation adjournment: 4/23/17). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers: learner or intermediate (primary). Ban on all texting for all drivers (primary). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st time offense fine is \$124.
West Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handheld ban for all drivers (primary). Ban on all cell phone use for novice drivers under 18: learner or intermediate (primary). Ban on all texting for all drivers (primary). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st offense \$100, then \$200, then \$300, 3 points on license on 3rd and subsequent convictions.
Wisconsin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on texting for all drivers (primary). Ban on cell phone use (handheld and hands-free) for novice drivers (learner or intermediate) (primary). Ban on handheld phones in construction zones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distracted driving which is defined, as anything that hinders the safe driving of a vehicle, merits a fine of \$20-\$400 with 4 points possible. Drivers who are caught texting may be fined \$20 for the 1st offense, repeat offenders are fined \$50-\$100-ultimately going up to \$400 and they may get up to 4 points on their license. Other violations: fines are \$10-\$40 for the 1st offense and between \$50-\$100 for the 2nd within a year.
Wyoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on texting for all drivers (primary). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$75 fine.