

Acts 2010 - CHAPTER 155 AN ACT RELATIVE TO SAFE DRIVING (See House, No. 4795)

Approved by the Governor on July 2, 2010, a new state law that bans texting while driving took effect on September 30, 2010. Massachusetts State Police said efforts would be made to enforce the law.

The law covers:

- Mobile phones
- Pager
- PDA
- Laptop
- Video games
- Digital cameras
- Sending e-mails, using internet on a mobile device

The only exceptions to the law is emergency use.

Violation Penalties:

1st offense - \$100 fine

2nd offense - \$250 fine

3rd or subsequent offense - \$500 fine

A junior operator restriction is also attached to the new law. Drivers ages 16 and 17 will not be allowed to use their cell phones while driving at all. If they do, they will be cited with a \$100 fine, lose their license for 60 days and will be required to take a driver retraining course

Negligent Operation and Injury from Mobile Phone Use

Personal injury or property damage caused by negligent operation of a motor vehicle is a criminal offense. Criminal charges may be filed if an operator crashes because the operator was using a mobile electronic device. In addition to the criminal charges, the operator will face loss of license as described below:

Junior Operators (under 18 years of age)

1st offense - 180-day suspension

2nd or subsequent offense (within three years) - One-year suspension

18 Years or Older

1st offense - 60-day suspension

2nd or subsequent offense (within three years) - One-year suspension

For the full text, go to

<http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2010/Chapter155> .

Sources:

[www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com)

[www.lynnpolice.org](http://www.lynnpolice.org)

<http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/12002349599536/new-mass-law-bans-texting-while-driving/>