HANDS-FREE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHILE DRIVING.

IT'S THE LAW.

FINES UP TO $500

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A message from the Office of Grants and Research

Massachusetts law prohibits operators of motor vehicles from using **any** electronic device, including mobile telephones, unless the device is used in hands-free mode.

The "hands-free" law is effective as of February 23, 2020.

Penalty for violating the hands-free law

- 1st offense – $100 fine.
- 2nd offense – $250 fine, plus mandatory completion of a distracted driving educational program.
- 3rd and subsequent offenses – $500 fine, plus insurance surcharge and mandatory completion of distracted driving educational program.

What does this mean for me?

Drivers who are 18 and over

- Can only use electronic devices and mobile phones in hands-free mode and are **only permitted** to touch devices to activate hands-free mode.
- **Not permitted** to hold or support any electronic device/phone.
- **Cannot** touch phone except to activate the hands-free mode and can only enable when the device is installed or properly mounted to the windshield, dashboard, or center console in a manner that does not impede the operation of the motor vehicle.
- **Not allowed** to touch device for texting, emailing, apps, video, or internet use.
- Activation of GPS navigation **is permitted** when the device is installed or properly mounted.
- Handheld use **is allowed only** if the vehicle is both stationary and not located in a public travel lane, but is **not allowed** at red lights or stop signs.
- Voice to text and communication to electronic devices **is legal only** when device is properly mounted; use of headphone (one ear) is permitted.

Drivers who are under 18

- **Are not allowed to use any electronic devices.** All phone use while driving **is illegal**, including use in hands-free mode.

Operators may use a cell phone to call 911 to report an emergency. If possible, safely pull over and stop before calling 911.

For more information, please visit
Mass.Gov/Handsfree

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