



# Senate Transportation Committee

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Chairman

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## Bill Summary

**Senate Bill 143**

**Sponsor: Senator Tomlinson**

**Printers Number 456**

**Referred: 03/02/09**

**Senate Bill 143** amends Pa.C.S. Title 75 (vehicles) creating a new section as follows:  
§ 3316 Prohibiting use of electronic wireless communications devices. This section prohibits the operation of a moving vehicle on a highway while using a wireless communication device to send, read or write a text message. The legislation expressly states that a dialing a wireless phone does not constitute texting thus is not considered a violation of this section.

A conviction under this section is a secondary offense and is only applicable when a driver has been cited for another violation of this title.

The section does not apply to a person operating an emergency vehicle, or law enforcement and fire company personnel in performance of their official duties.

The fine for a violation of this section is \$100.

Similar legislation has been enacted prohibiting texting while driving for all classes of drivers in the following ten states: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Washington D.C. Additionally, eight more states prohibit texting by novice drivers or certain specialized driving classifications.

**Effective Date:** 60 Days

### Amendment Note\*

*An amendment (A 00857) may be offered to this bill to limit the unlawful behavior referred to in this section to "handheld" communications devices; to include coroners in the exclusion category and to ensure the primacy of this law over local ordinances.*