



Handheld Cellular Phone and Text Messaging Bans¹

November 2009

State	Handheld Ban	Text Messaging Ban
Alabama		
Alaska		Yes
Arizona		
Arkansas		Yes
California	Yes	Yes
Colorado		Yes (eff. 12/01/09)
Connecticut	Yes	Yes
Delaware		
District of Columbia	Yes	Yes
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii		Pending ²
Idaho		
Illinois	By jurisdiction ³	Yes (eff. 01/01/10)
Indiana		
Iowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana	Yes ⁴	Yes
Maine		
Maryland		
Massachusetts	By jurisdiction ⁵	
Michigan	By jurisdiction ⁶	
Minnesota		Yes
Mississippi		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
Nevada		
New Hampshire		Yes (eff. 01/01/10)
New Jersey	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	By jurisdiction ⁷ and in State vehicles	
New York	Yes	Yes
North Carolina		Yes (eff. 12/01/09)
North Dakota		

¹ This chart does not include any laws prohibiting drivers under the age of 18 and/or bus drivers.

² The City Council of Honolulu passed legislation to ban texting with a 7-1 margin. The Mayor vetoed the legislation and the Council is in the process to override the veto.

³ Chicago, Illinois

⁴ There is a probationary period 1 year from when the license was issued.

⁵ Brookline, Massachusetts

⁶ Detroit, Michigan

⁷ Santa Fe, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Ohio	By jurisdiction ⁸	
Oklahoma		
Oregon	Yes (eff. 01/01/10)	Yes (eff.01/01/10)
Pennsylvania	By jurisdiction ⁹	
Rhode Island		Yes
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		Yes
Texas		
Utah	Yes ¹⁰	Yes
Vermont		
Virgin Islands	Yes	
Virginia		Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		

⁸ Brooklyn, North Olmstead and Walton Hills, Ohio

⁹ Conshohocken, Hilltown Township, Lebanon, Pennsylvania

¹⁰ Utah State Code 41(6a)(1715) defines "Careless driving" as being "distracted" by using a wireless telephone or other electronic." It is legal to use a cell-phone while you are driving only if the driver is using a device with hands-free.