



State Distracted Driving Laws

State	LAWS							
	Text Messaging Ban	Statewide Hand-held Cell Phone Ban	Teen Driver Ban on Cell Phones	Distracted/Negligent Driving	Data Collection	Distracted Driving Study	State Preemption on Cell Phones	School Bus Driver Ban on Cell Phones
Alaska	√							
Arizona								√
Arkansas ^{1 3}	√		√					√
California ²	√	√	√		√			√
Colorado ³			√					
Connecticut	√	√	√	√	√			√
Delaware			√			√		√
District of Columbia	√	√	√	√	√			√
Florida					√	√	√	
Georgia								√
Hawaii						√		
Illinois ⁴			√		√			√
Iowa					√			
Kentucky							√	√
Kansas ⁵			√					
Louisiana ³	√		√		√	√	√	√
Maine			√					

¹ Arkansas' text messaging ban and teen driver ban on cell phones take effect October 1, 2009. The teen driver ban also prohibits drivers age 18-21 from using handheld wireless devices.

² In California, rental cars must be equipped with safe operating instructions for cell phones.

³ In Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Maryland, Nebraska, Oregon, Virginia, and West Virginia, the teen driver cell phone ban is secondarily enforced. In Louisiana and Washington, the text messaging ban is secondarily enforced.

⁴ In Chicago, Illinois, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones.



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⁵ Kansas teen driver cell ban effective January 1, 2010.

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Maryland³			√		√			
Massachusetts⁵					√			√
Michigan⁶					√			
Minnesota	√		√		√			√
Mississippi⁷			√		√		√	
Montana					√			
Nebraska³			√		√			
Nevada					√		√	
New Hampshire⁸				√				
New Jersey⁹	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
New Mexico⁶						√		
New York		√			√	√		
North Carolina			√		√	√		√
Ohio¹⁰								
Oklahoma					√		√	

⁵ In Massachusetts, cell phone use is permitted as long as it does not interfere with the operation of motor vehicle. The driver must also keep one hand on the steering wheel at all times; first-time fines for violating these laws range from \$30 to \$100.

⁶ In Detroit, Michigan and Santa Fe, New Mexico, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones.

⁷ Mississippi's teen driver ban on cell phones becomes effective July 1, 2009.

⁸ In New Hampshire, drivers are accountable for distractions that contribute to a crash. Motorists can be fined \$250 to \$1000.

⁹ In New Jersey, the hand-held cell phone and text messaging ban for drivers is secondarily enforced.

¹⁰ In Brooklyn, North Olmstead and Walton Hills, Ohio, drivers are banned from using hand-held cell phones.



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Oregon ³			√		√		√	
Pennsylvania					√			
Rhode Island			√					√
Tennessee			√		√			√
Texas			√		√			√
Utah ¹¹	√				√		√	
Virginia ³	√		√			√		√
Washington	√	√			√		√	
West Virginia ³			√					
Wyoming ¹²				√				
Total (Includes D.C)	11	6	22	4	25	9	10	18

¹¹ Utah's text messaging law takes effect May 12, 2009. The state also has a law against careless driving, for which a person can be charged if they commit a moving violation other than speeding while using a hand-held cell phone or engaging in other distracting activities.

¹² Wyoming's careless driving law takes effect July 1, 2009.