

## New Hands-Free Electronic Device Law in NH Takes Effect July 1, 2015

The state has released this announcement in regards to electronic devices in vehicles, effective July 1, 2015. What does this mean for drivers?



No use of hand-held electronic devices capable of providing voice or data communication while driving or temporarily halted in traffic for a stop sign or traffic signal or other momentary delays

This includes cell phones, GPS, tablets, iPods, iPads or other devices that require data entry

Emergency calls to 911 or other public safety agencies will be allowed

One hand non-cellular 2-way radio use will be allowed

Teen drivers under the age of 18 will not be allowed to use any electronic devices (hand held or not) except to report an emergency. Anyone violating this will be subject to penalties and license suspension or revocation.

Bluetooth or other hands-free electronic devices will be allowed

If your vehicle is not equipped with Bluetooth functionality, auto service centers can install after-market systems or over the ear devices can be purchased at retailers such as Staples, Best Buy or your cell phone carrier.

### Penalties for Violations

1st Offense..... \$100 fine

2nd Offense..... \$250 fine

3rd Offense within 2 years..... \$500 fine

*Penalty assessments will be added to the fines*

### Why is the NH Law Important?

During the past four years, 116 fatal crashes in New Hampshire were caused by distraction

The increasing use of electronic devices is fast becoming the primary distraction

While texting, a driver is 23 times more likely to crash

Sending or receiving a text distracts the driver for almost five seconds

At 50 miles per hour, we travel longer than the length of a football field during that five seconds

Even dialing a phone number increases the risk of crashing by three times.

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