



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2003

LCO No. 6403

HB0640406403SR0

Offered by:

SEN. FREEDMAN, 26th Dist.

SEN. MCKINNEY, 28th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6404

File No. 717

Cal. No. 467

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) (1) For purposes of
4 this section, a "hands-free mobile telephone" means a telephone with
5 speakerphone capability or an attachment, add-on or addition to a
6 mobile telephone or other piece of equipment, whether or not
7 permanently installed in the motor vehicle, that when used allows the
8 operator of a motor vehicle to maintain both hands on the steering
9 device.

10 (2) "Mobile telephone" includes, but is not limited to, cellular,
11 analog, wireless and digital telephones capable of sending or receiving
12 telephone communications without an access line for service.

13 (b) On and after January 1, 2004, no operator of a motor vehicle shall

14 use a mobile telephone while said motor vehicle is in motion on a
15 public highway or private road unless the operator is using a mobile
16 telephone through a hands-free device attached to said mobile
17 telephone or such person is: (1) An operator who is alone and
18 reasonably fears for his or her safety or reasonably believes that a
19 criminal act may be perpetrated against him or her; (2) an operator
20 who is using such telephone to contact an emergency 9-1-1 system to
21 report what such operator reasonably believes is an emergency or the
22 commission of a crime or motor vehicle violation; (3) an operator of a
23 school bus with passengers who uses such telephone to call for
24 assistance when the school bus experiences a mechanical breakdown
25 or an emergency arises that endangers the operator or the passengers;
26 or (4) a police officer, peace officer or firefighter or an operator of an
27 ambulance, authorized emergency vehicle, as defined in subdivision
28 (4) of subsection (a) of section 14-1 of the general statutes, bus, school
29 bus without passengers, taxi cab or tow truck who uses such telephone
30 while acting in the performance of his or her duties and within the
31 scope of his or her employment.

32 (c) Nothing contained in this section shall prevent any passenger of
33 a motor vehicle, other than the operator, from using a mobile
34 telephone while the motor vehicle is in motion.

35 (d) Any violation of this section shall constitute an infraction and be
36 punishable by a fine not to exceed seventy-five dollars for each
37 violation. Each such violation shall constitute a separate and distinct
38 violation."