



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6722

January Session, 2005

* HB06722TRA 032805 *

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF HAND-HELD MOBILE
TELEPHONES AND HAND-HELD MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY
OPERATORS OF MOTOR VEHICLES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Hands-free mobile telephone" means a mobile telephone with
4 speakerphone capability or an attachment, add-on component or other
5 additional equipment, whether or not permanently installed, that
6 when used allows the operator of a motor vehicle to maintain both
7 hands on the steering device of such motor vehicle;

8 (2) "Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other
9 portable electronic equipment capable of performing personal
10 computer functions, sending or receiving electronic mail, playing
11 video games or digital video disks, or taking or transmitting digital
12 photographs, or any combination thereof, but does not include any
13 audio equipment or any equipment installed in a motor vehicle for the
14 purpose of providing navigation, emergency or other assistance to the
15 operator of such motor vehicle or video entertainment to the
16 passengers of such motor vehicle; and

17 (3) "Mobile telephone" includes, but is not limited to, any cellular,

18 analog, wireless or digital telephone capable of sending or receiving
19 telephone communications without an access line for service.

20 (b) On and after January 1, 2006, no person shall use a mobile
21 telephone while operating a motor vehicle on a public highway or
22 private road unless such person is: (1) Using a hands-free mobile
23 telephone in a mode that allows such person to maintain both hands
24 on the steering device of such motor vehicle, except that this
25 subdivision does not apply to any holder of a learner's permit subject
26 to the requirements of subsection (c) of section 14-36 of the general
27 statutes or any holder of a motor vehicle operator's license subject to
28 the requirements of subsection (d) of section 14-36d or section 14-36g
29 of the general statutes; (2) operating such motor vehicle alone and
30 reasonably fears for his or her safety or reasonably believes that a
31 criminal act may be perpetrated against him or her; (3) using such
32 mobile telephone to contact an emergency 9-1-1 system to report what
33 such person reasonably believes to be an emergency or the commission
34 of a crime or motor vehicle violation; (4) operating a school bus with
35 passengers and is using such mobile telephone to call for assistance in
36 the case of a mechanical breakdown or an emergency that endangers
37 such person or passengers; or (5) a peace officer, as defined in
38 subdivision (9) of section 53a-3 of the general statutes, a firefighter or
39 an operator of an ambulance, authorized emergency vehicle, as
40 defined in subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 14-1 of the
41 general statutes, bus, school bus without passengers, taxi cab or tow
42 truck who uses such mobile telephone while acting in the performance
43 of his or her duties and within the scope of his or her employment.

44 (c) On and after January 1, 2006, no person shall use a mobile
45 electronic device to perform any personal computer function, send or
46 receive any electronic mail, play any video game or view a digital
47 video disk player, or take or transmit any digital photograph while
48 operating a motor vehicle on a public highway or private road.

49 (d) Nothing in subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be construed
50 to prohibit any passenger in a motor vehicle, other than the operator of

51 such motor vehicle, from using a mobile telephone or a mobile
52 electronic device while the motor vehicle is being operated on a public
53 highway or private road.

54 (e) Any law enforcement officer who issues a summons for a
55 violation of subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall record, on any
56 summons form issued in connection with the matter, the specific
57 nature of any distracted driving behavior observed by such officer that
58 contributed to the issuance of such summons.

59 (f) Any person who violates subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall,
60 for a first violation, have committed an infraction and shall be fined
61 not more than seventy-five dollars, for a second violation, shall be
62 fined not more than one hundred fifty dollars and, for a third or
63 subsequent violation, shall be fined not more than two hundred fifty
64 dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2005	New section

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*