



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 825

LCO No. 3733



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING DISTRACTED WALKING.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) For the purposes of
2 this section, "mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other
3 portable electronic equipment capable of providing data
4 communication between two or more persons, including, but not
5 limited to, a mobile telephone, a text messaging device, a paging
6 device, a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, equipment that
7 is capable of playing a video game or a digital video disk, or
8 equipment on which digital photographs are taken or transmitted, or
9 any combination thereof, and "viewing" means looking in the direction
10 of the screen of a mobile electronic device.

11 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, no pedestrian
12 shall cross a highway while viewing a mobile electronic device.

13 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to
14 (1) the use of a mobile electronic device for the sole purpose of
15 communicating with any of the following regarding an emergency
16 situation: An emergency response operator, a hospital, physician's

17 office or health clinic, an ambulance company, a fire department or a
18 police department, or (2) any of the following persons while in the
19 performance of their official duties and within the scope of their
20 employment: A peace officer or firefighter, as those terms are defined
21 in section 53a-3 of the general statutes, or any emergency medical
22 responder, emergency medical technician or paramedic, as those terms
23 are defined in section 19a-175 of the general statutes.

24 (d) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall, for
25 a first violation, receive a warning and, for any subsequent violation,
26 be fined twenty dollars.

27 Sec. 2. Section 14-300d of the general statutes is repealed and the
28 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

29 Notwithstanding any provisions of the general statutes or any
30 regulations issued thereunder, sections 14-299, 14-300, 14-300b to 14-
31 300e, inclusive, section 1 of this act, or any local ordinance, [to the
32 contrary,] each operator of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid
33 colliding with any pedestrian or person propelling a human powered
34 vehicle and shall give a reasonable warning by sounding a horn or
35 other lawful noise emitting device to avoid a collision. An operator
36 who violates any provision of this section shall be fined not more than
37 five hundred dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	14-300d

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit pedestrians from crossing a highway while viewing a mobile electronic device.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]