



Handheld Cellular Phone and Text Messaging Bans¹

January 2010

State	Handheld Ban	Text Messaging Ban
Alabama		
Alaska		Yes
Arizona		
Arkansas		Yes
California	Yes	Yes
Colorado		Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Yes
Delaware		
District of Columbia	Yes	Yes
Florida		
Georgia		
Hawaii	Yes ²	By jurisdiction ³
Idaho		
Illinois	Yes ⁴ / By jurisdiction ⁵	Yes
Indiana		
Iowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana	Yes ⁶	Yes
Maine		
Maryland		Yes
Massachusetts	By jurisdiction ⁷	
Michigan	By jurisdiction ⁸	
Minnesota		Yes
Mississippi		
Missouri		⁹
Montana		
Nebraska		
Nevada		
New Hampshire		Yes
New Jersey	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	By jurisdiction ¹⁰ and in State vehicles	
New York	Yes	Yes

¹ This chart does not include any laws prohibiting drivers under the age of 18 and/or bus drivers.

² Handheld cellular ban is in effect only in Hawaii County.

³ Text messaging ban is only in effect in Honolulu.

⁴ The use of cell phone use by a driver is prohibited in construction and school speed zones.

⁵ Chicago, Illinois

⁶ There is a probationary period 1 year from when the license was issued.

⁷ Brookline, Massachusetts

⁸ Detroit, Michigan

⁹ Text messaging ban is in effect for drivers 21 and younger.

¹⁰ Santa Fe, Albuquerque, New Mexico

North Carolina		Yes
North Dakota		
Ohio	By jurisdiction ¹¹	
Oklahoma		
Oregon	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	By jurisdiction ¹²	
Rhode Island		Yes
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		Yes
Texas		
Utah	Yes ¹³	Yes
Vermont		
Virgin Islands	Yes	
Virginia		Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		

¹¹ Brooklyn, North Olmstead and Walton Hills, Ohio

¹² Conshohocken, Hilltown Township, Lebanon, Pennsylvania

¹³ Utah State Code 41(6a)(1715) defines “Careless driving” as being “distracted” by using a wireless telephone or other electronic.” It is legal to use a cell-phone while you are driving only if the driver is using a device with hands-free.