



Hands-Free Driving Legislation Introduced *By State Rep. Rosemary M. Brown (R-Monroe/Pike)*

Millions of automobile crashes occur across our nation each year where cell phone usage is to blame. In response, I recently introduced a bill to prohibit calls on hand-held mobile telephones, except with the use of hands-free accessories, while operating a motor vehicle in Pennsylvania. The intent of this legislation is to make our roadways safer and create consistency for motorists driving through our state from border states that already ban hand-held cell phone use.

All motorists age 18 and over would be prohibited from using a hand-held phone while driving, but would be allowed to use hands-free devices. Additionally, drivers under the age of 18 would be prohibited from using both hand-held and hands-free devices. Exceptions would be permitted during emergency situations if the vehicle is not equipped with hands-free technology. The legislation would permit emergency responders, while in their official duties, to only use hand-held mobile telephones if their vehicles do not include hands-free service.

The first offense for violating this law would be a \$50 fine and three points to a license and \$150 for a second or each subsequent offense. The northeastern region of the United States including New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland, Delaware, Vermont, New Hampshire and West Virginia, all ban hand-held cell phone use.

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