

HOUSE BILL NO. 600

INTRODUCED BY H. RASER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF HAND-HELD ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES WHILE OPERATING A VEHICLE ON A PUBLIC HIGHWAY."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Use of hand-held communication device prohibited -- exceptions. (1)

Except as provided in subsections (2) through (4), a person may not use, or hold ready for use, an electronic communication device while operating a vehicle on a public highway.

(2) The prohibition in subsection (1) does not apply to an electronic communication device that is specifically designed for operation without the use of hands for talking and listening and that is used in that manner while operating a vehicle.

(3) The prohibition in subsection (1) does not apply to a person using a mobile telephone for emergency purposes, including but not limited to calling a law enforcement agency, an emergency medical or fire and rescue agency, or a health care provider.

(4) The prohibition in subsection (1) does not apply to law enforcement and emergency services personnel while operating a vehicle for official purposes.

(5) The department or its agent may not require a driver who may be in violation of this section to stop at any time except upon reasonable cause that the driver has violated another traffic regulation or that the driver's vehicle is unsafe or not equipped as required by law.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 61, chapter 8, part 3, and the provisions of Title 61, chapter 8, part 3, apply to [section 1].

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