

SENATE FILE NO. SF0020

Text-based communications prohibited while driving.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Esquibel, F., Ross, Sessions and
Von Flatern and Representative(s) Cohee,
Hammons, McOmie and Roscoe

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; prohibiting the use of
2 electronic wireless communication devices for sending text
3 or electronic mail messages while operating a motor
4 vehicle; providing exceptions; providing definitions;
5 providing penalties; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 31-5-237 is created to read:

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11 **31-5-237. Use of electronic wireless communication**
12 **devices for electronic messaging prohibited; exceptions;**
13 **penalties.**

14

15 (a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle on a
16 public street or highway while using an electronic wireless

1 communication device to write, send or read a text-based
2 communication. This section shall not apply to a person who
3 is using the electronic wireless communication device:

4
5 (i) While the vehicle is lawfully parked;

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7 (ii) To contact an emergency response vehicle; or

8
9 (iii) To write, read, select or enter a
10 telephone number or name in an electronic wireless
11 communications device for the purpose of making or
12 receiving a telephone call.

13
14 (b) This section shall not apply to a person operating
15 an emergency response vehicle or while performing official
16 duties as an emergency responder.

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18 (c) Any person who operates a motor vehicle in
19 violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor
20 punishable by a fine of not more than seventy-five dollars
21 (\$75.00).

22
23 (d) As used in this section:

24
25 (i) "Electronic wireless communication device"
26 means a mobile communication device that uses short-wave

1 analog or digital radio transmissions or satellite
2 transmissions between the device and a transmitter to permit
3 wireless telephone communications to and from the user of
4 the device within a specified area;

5

6 (ii) "Emergency response vehicle" means any
7 ambulance, fire department, law enforcement or civil defense
8 vehicle or other vehicle used primarily for emergency
9 purposes;

10

11 (iii) "Write, send or read a text-based
12 communication" means using an electronic wireless
13 communications device to manually communicate with any
14 person using text-based communication including, but not
15 limited to, communications referred to as a text message,
16 instant message or electronic mail.

17

18 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2010.

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(END)