

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 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.

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

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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.**

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15 (a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle while
16 using an electronic wireless communication device to write,

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

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5 (i) While the vehicle is lawfully parked;

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

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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.

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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 shall be subject to the monetary
20 penalties provided by W.S. 31-5-1201(b).

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22 (d) As used in this section:

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24 (i) "Electronic wireless communication device"
25 means a mobile communication device that uses short-wave
26 analog or digital radio transmissions or satellite

1 transmissions between the device and a transmitter to permit
2 wireless telephone communications to and from the user of
3 the device within a specified area;

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

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

16

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

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(END)