Text messages while driving prohibited.

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

A BILL for

AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; prohibiting the use of cellular and satellite telephones for receiving or sending text or electronic mail messages while operating a motor vehicle; providing exceptions; providing definitions; providing penalties; and providing for an effective date.

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

Section 1. W.S. 31-5-236 is created to read:

31-5-236. Use of cellular and satellite telephones for electronic messaging prohibited; exceptions; penalties.

(a) No person shall use a cellular or satellite telephone to receive or send a text or electronic mail message while operating a motor vehicle. This section shall
not apply to a person who is using the cellular or satellite telephone:

(i) While the vehicle is lawfully parked; or

(ii) To contact an emergency response vehicle.

(b) This section shall not apply to a person operating an emergency response vehicle while performing official duties.

(c) Any person who operates a motor vehicle in violation of this section shall be subject to the monetary penalties provided by W.S. 31-5-1201(b).

(d) As used in this section:

(i) "Cellular telephone" means a mobile communication device that uses short-wave analog or digital radio transmissions between the device and a nearby transmitter to permit wireless telephone communications to and from the user of the device within a specified area;

(ii) "Emergency response vehicle" means any ambulance, fire department, law enforcement or civil defense vehicle or other vehicle used primarily for emergency purposes;
(iii) "Satellite telephone" means a mobile communication device that transmits and receives radio signals to and from one (1) or more satellites in earth's orbit to permit wireless telephone communications to and from the user.

Section 2. This act is effective July 1, 2009.