



DISTRACTED DRIVING LEGISLATION HOUSE BILL 4277, 4278, 4279



House Bills 4277, 4278 and 4279 would implement long-overdue improvements to strengthen Michigan's distracted driving laws. The bills will help to make Michigan roads safer by decreasing unnecessary traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities.

WHAT THE LEGISLATION MEANS FOR DRIVERS

- The legislation bans handheld phone use while driving. A driver may not hold their phone in their hand. Also, a driver may not use their phone at any time for video calling, video live-streaming, TikTok, gaming, looking at video or photos stored on the phone, using non-navigation apps, reading texts and scrolling or typing on the phone.
- A driver may use the phone as a GPS in a hands-free or voice-activated mode only. If a driver needs to see the map, mount the phone to the dashboard. Built-in and or navigation only systems are exempt from this legislation.
- A driver under the age of 17 is banned from using a cellphone, even in hands-free mode.

WHAT DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW

- Hands-free is not risk-free but these bills are a step toward safer Michigan roads.
- According to NHTSA, one of every ten fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distraction, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths per year.
- In Michigan alone, there were 64 crashes involving a distracted driver, resulting in 71 fatalities in 2019.

TO LEARN MORE...

- The AAA Foundation and AAA's Center for Driving Safety and Technology continue to provide research on new and evolving technologies.
- Visit AAA.com/distraction

What are the penalties?

Violators can face fines up to \$100 or 16 hrs community service; a second offense is a \$250 fine or 24 hrs community service with one point on the driving record; a third offense results in two points on the driving record.

What if there is an emergency?

Drivers can use their phone to obtain emergency assistance or if there is an immediate threat to life and safety.

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