

Maine's Hands-Free Driving Law



What is the new Hands-Free Driving Law?

Starting September 19th, 2019, the new law under Title 29-A section 2121 prohibits you from holding any electronic device not part of the operating equipment of the motor vehicle, unless specifically exempted.

Can I place a phone call while driving?

You can place a call while driving, but the phone cannot be held to your ear. You may use voice commands to make a call or if your mobile telephone is mounted or affixed to the vehicle you may use your hand to push, swipe or tap the phone to activate or deactivate a feature or function.

Can I text and drive?

No. Texting while driving is illegal. You may use voice to text to send and listen to messages. If your phone doesn't have that feature, you must pull off the public way, find a safe place to park, compose the message, and send it.

What is the Penalty?

Violations will be subject to no less than a \$50 fine for the first offense and not less than \$250 for a second or subsequent offense in a three-year period.

More important information on back

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What if I want to use my GPS?

GPS can be used, if the address is entered prior to driving. If the address needs to be changed you must pull off the public way, find a safe place to park, and then enter the new address. You can also use your phone's voice command feature.

What about drivers under the age of 18?

If a driver is under the age of 18, has an intermediate license, or a permit, they may not operate a motor vehicle while using a phone or handheld device.

What else should I know?

- Your phone can be mounted if it doesn't obstruct your view of the roadway.
- A handheld controller used to operate a plow or other piece of equipment attached to the vehicle can be used, as that is part of the operating equipment of the vehicle and exempt from this law.
- In cases of an emergency, drivers, except those operating on a permit, are permitted to call law enforcement or other emergency services personnel.

Distraction Free Driving Begins with ME
One Text or Call Could WRECK it All #Justdrive

**Maine Bureau of
Highway Safety**

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*Printed using federal NHTSA funds

