



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 8309



Offered by:

REP. HOWARD, 43rd Dist.

REP. KENNEDY, 119th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 7060

File No. 842

Cal. No. 347

"AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION WORKER SAFETY."

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Section 14-222 of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

5 (a) (1) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon any public
6 highway of the state, or any road of any specially chartered municipal
7 association or of any district organized under the provisions of chapter
8 105, a purpose of which is the construction and maintenance of roads
9 and sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars or more or upon any
10 private road on which a speed limit has been established in accordance
11 with the provisions of section 14-218a or section 14-307a or upon any
12 school property recklessly, having regard to the width, traffic and use
13 of such highway, road, school property or parking area, the intersection
14 of streets and the weather conditions.

15 (2) The operation of a motor vehicle upon any such highway, road or
16 parking area for ten cars or more at such a rate of speed as to endanger
17 the life of any person other than the operator of such motor vehicle, or
18 the operation, downgrade, upon any highway, of any motor vehicle
19 with a commercial registration with the clutch or gears disengaged, or
20 the operation knowingly of a motor vehicle with defective mechanism,
21 shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this section.

22 (3) The operation of a motor vehicle upon any such highway, road or
23 parking area for ten cars or more at a rate of speed greater than eighty-
24 five miles per hour shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this
25 section.

26 (4) The operation of a motor vehicle upon a limited access highway
27 while engaged in any activity prohibited by section 14-296aa, as
28 amended by this act, shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this
29 section.

30 (b) Any person who violates any provision of this section (1) for the
31 first offense, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more
32 than three hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or
33 be both fined and imprisoned, [for the first offense] except any person
34 who violates any provision of this section while operating a motor
35 vehicle within a highway work zone, as defined in section 14-212d, as
36 amended by this act, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars
37 or imprisoned more than three months or be both fined and imprisoned,
38 and (2) for each subsequent offense, shall be fined not more than six
39 hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or be both fined
40 and imprisoned.

41 Sec. 502. Section 14-296aa of the general statutes is repealed and the
42 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

43 (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
44 following meanings:

45 (1) "Mobile telephone" means a cellular, analog, wireless or digital

46 telephone capable of sending or receiving telephone communications
47 without an access line for service.

48 (2) "Using" or "use" means holding a hand-held mobile telephone to,
49 or in the immediate proximity of, the user's ear.

50 (3) "Hand-held mobile telephone" means a mobile telephone with
51 which a user engages in a call using at least one hand.

52 (4) "Hands-free accessory" means an attachment, add-on, built-in
53 feature, or addition to a mobile telephone, whether or not permanently
54 installed in a motor vehicle, that, when used, allows the vehicle operator
55 to maintain both hands on the steering wheel.

56 (5) "Hands-free mobile telephone" means a hand-held mobile
57 telephone that has an internal feature or function, or that is equipped
58 with an attachment or addition, whether or not permanently part of
59 such hand-held mobile telephone, by which a user engages in a call
60 without the use of either hand, whether or not the use of either hand is
61 necessary to activate, deactivate or initiate a function of such telephone.

62 (6) "Engage in a call" means talking into or listening on a hand-held
63 mobile telephone, but does not include holding a hand-held mobile
64 telephone to activate, deactivate or initiate a function of such telephone.

65 (7) "Immediate proximity" means the distance that permits the
66 operator of a hand-held mobile telephone to hear telecommunications
67 transmitted over such hand-held mobile telephone, but does not require
68 physical contact with such operator's ear.

69 (8) "Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other portable
70 electronic equipment capable of providing data communication
71 between two or more persons, including a text messaging device, a
72 paging device, a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer,
73 equipment that is capable of playing a video game or a digital video
74 disk, or equipment on which digital photographs are taken or
75 transmitted, or any combination thereof, but does not include any audio

76 equipment or any equipment installed in a motor vehicle for the
77 purpose of providing navigation, emergency assistance to the operator
78 of such motor vehicle or video entertainment to the passengers in the
79 rear seats of such motor vehicle.

80 (9) "Operating a motor vehicle" means operating a motor vehicle on
81 any highway, [as defined in section 14-1,] including being temporarily
82 stationary due to traffic, road conditions or a traffic control sign or
83 signal, but not including being parked on the side or shoulder of any
84 highway where such vehicle is safely able to remain stationary.

85 (10) "Highway", "commercial motor vehicle" and "authorized
86 emergency vehicle" have the same meanings as provided in section 14-
87 1.

88 (b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and
89 subsections (c) and (d) of this section, no person shall operate a motor
90 vehicle upon a highway [, as defined in section 14-1,] while using a
91 hand-held mobile telephone to engage in a call or while using a mobile
92 electronic device. An operator of a motor vehicle who types, sends or
93 reads a text message with a hand-held mobile telephone or mobile
94 electronic device while operating a motor vehicle shall be in violation of
95 this section, except that if such operator is driving a commercial motor
96 vehicle, [as defined in section 14-1,] such operator shall be charged with
97 a violation of subsection (e) of this section.

98 (2) An operator of a motor vehicle who holds a hand-held mobile
99 telephone to, or in the immediate proximity of, his or her ear while
100 operating a motor vehicle is presumed to be engaging in a call within
101 the meaning of this section. The presumption established by this
102 subdivision is rebuttable by evidence tending to show that the operator
103 was not engaged in a call.

104 (3) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed as
105 authorizing the seizure or forfeiture of a hand-held mobile telephone or
106 a mobile electronic device, unless otherwise provided by law.

107 (4) Subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply to: (A) The use
108 of a hand-held mobile telephone for the sole purpose of communicating
109 with any of the following regarding an emergency situation: An
110 emergency response operator; a hospital, physician's office or health
111 clinic; an ambulance company; a fire department; or a police
112 department, or (B) any of the following persons while in the
113 performance of their official duties and within the scope of their
114 employment: A peace officer, as defined in subdivision (9) of section
115 53a-3, a firefighter or an operator of an ambulance or authorized
116 emergency vehicle [, as defined in section 14-1,] or a member of the
117 armed forces of the United States, as defined in section 27-103, while
118 operating a military vehicle, or (C) the use of a hand-held radio by a
119 person with an amateur radio station license issued by the Federal
120 Communications Commission in emergency situations for emergency
121 purposes only, or (D) the use of a hands-free mobile telephone.

122 (c) No person shall use a hand-held mobile telephone or other
123 electronic device, including those with hands-free accessories, or a
124 mobile electronic device, while operating a school bus that is carrying
125 passengers, except that this subsection shall not apply when such
126 person: (1) Places an emergency call to school officials; (2) uses a hand-
127 held mobile telephone as provided in subparagraph (A) of subdivision
128 (4) of subsection (b) of this section; (3) uses a hand-held mobile
129 telephone or mobile electronic device in a manner similar to a two-way
130 radio to allow real-time communication with a school official, an
131 emergency response operator, a hospital, physician's office or health
132 clinic, an ambulance company, a fire department or a police department;
133 or (4) uses a mobile electronic device with a video display, provided
134 such device (A) is used as a global positioning system or to provide
135 navigation, (B) is securely attached inside the school bus near such
136 person, and (C) has been approved for such use by the Department of
137 Motor Vehicles.

138 (d) No person under eighteen years of age shall use any hand-held
139 mobile telephone, including one with a hands-free accessory, or a

140 mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle on a public
141 highway, except as provided in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (4) of
142 subsection (b) of this section.

143 (e) No person shall use a hand-held mobile telephone or other
144 electronic device or type, read or send text or a text message with or
145 from a mobile telephone or mobile electronic device while operating a
146 commercial motor vehicle, [as defined in section 14-1,] except for the
147 purpose of communicating with any of the following regarding an
148 emergency situation: An emergency response operator; a hospital;
149 physician's office or health clinic; an ambulance company; a fire
150 department or a police department.

151 (f) Except as provided in subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of this
152 section, no person shall engage in any activity not related to the actual
153 operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that interferes with the safe
154 operation of such vehicle on any highway. [, as defined in section 14-1.]

155 (g) Any law enforcement officer who issues a summons for a
156 violation of this section shall record on such summons the specific
157 nature of any distracted driving behavior observed by such officer.

158 (h) Any person who violates this section shall be fined two hundred
159 dollars for a first violation, three hundred seventy-five dollars for a
160 second violation and six hundred twenty-five dollars for a third or
161 subsequent violation.

162 (i) An operator of a motor vehicle who commits a moving violation,
163 as defined in subsection (a) of section 14-111g, while engaged in any
164 activity prohibited by this section shall be fined in accordance with
165 subsection (h) of this section, in addition to any penalty or fine imposed
166 for the moving violation.

167 (j) The state shall remit to a municipality twenty-five per cent of the
168 fine amount received for a violation of this section with respect to each
169 summons issued by such municipality. Each clerk of the Superior Court
170 or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of the Superior

171 Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on or before
172 the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each year, certify
173 to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter under this
174 subsection to each municipality served by the office of the clerk or
175 official.

176 (k) A record of any violation of this section shall appear on the
177 driving history record or motor vehicle record, as defined in section 14-
178 10, of any person who commits such violation, and the record of such
179 violation shall be available to any motor vehicle insurer in accordance
180 with the provisions of section 14-10.

181 (l) No person shall be subject to the prosecution for a violation of the
182 provisions of this section and subsection (a) of section 14-222, as
183 amended by this act, because of the same offense.

184 Sec. 503. Subsection (d) of section 14-283b of the general statutes is
185 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
186 *1, 2025*):

187 (d) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (b) of
188 this section shall have committed an infraction, except that if such
189 violation results in the injury of the operator or any occupant of an
190 emergency vehicle, such person shall be fined not more than [two
191 thousand five hundred] ten thousand dollars and, if such violation
192 results in the death of the operator or any occupant of an emergency
193 vehicle, such person shall be fined not more than [ten] twenty thousand
194 dollars.

195 (2) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (c) of this
196 section shall have committed an infraction.

197 Sec. 504. Subsection (f) of section 14-212d of the general statutes is
198 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
199 *1, 2025*):

200 (f) Upon conviction or a plea of guilty for committing the offense of

201 aggravated endangerment of a highway worker, a person shall be
202 subject to a fine of (1) not more than ~~[five]~~ ten thousand dollars if such
203 offense results in serious physical injury to a highway worker, or (2)
204 ~~[ten]~~ twenty thousand dollars if such offense results in the death of a
205 highway worker, in addition to any other penalty authorized by law."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-222
Sec. 502	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-296aa
Sec. 503	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-283b(d)
Sec. 504	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-212d(f)