

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 26-120—SB 484

Judiciary Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING DISTRACTED DRIVING AND THE SAFE
OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IN A HIGHWAY WORK ZONE**

SUMMARY: This act makes it a per se (by its very nature) reckless driving violation to drive in a highway work zone while engaged in any activity prohibited under the state's distracted driving law.

Existing law prohibits driving recklessly for the surroundings and conditions (such as road layout or weather) and specifies certain circumstances that constitute reckless driving per se, including driving faster than 85 mph. The act expands these per se reckless driving violations to include driving a motor vehicle in a highway work zone while engaging in any activity prohibited under the state's distracted driving law.

Under the act, a person cannot be prosecuted for both a reckless driving violation and distracted driving violation for the same offense. By law, distracted driving violations are processed by the Centralized Infractions Bureau and fines may be paid by mail or online; reckless driving is an unclassified misdemeanor, subject to a fine, up to 30 days (first violation) or up to 364 days (subsequent violations) imprisonment, or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Related Act

PA 26-63 (§§ 31-34) revises and updates the state's distracted driving law, including explicitly prohibiting driving while (1) a video or moving image is visible to the driver on an installed screen or similar device, with certain exceptions and (2) holding or supporting a mobile electronic device with any part of the body.