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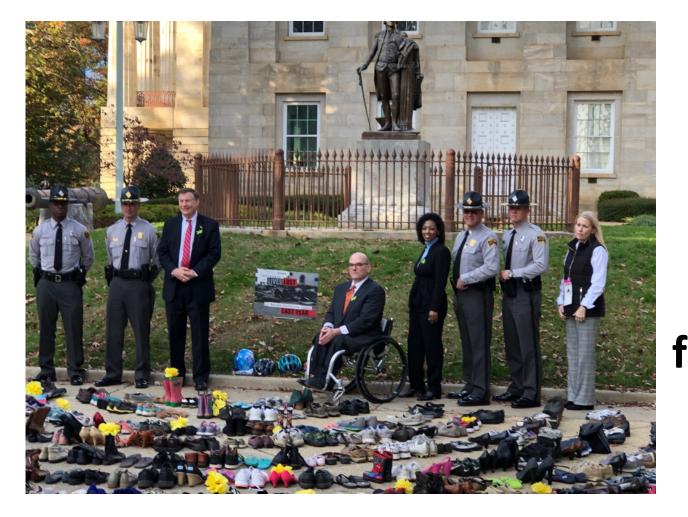




North Carolina Chamber Political Program

FREEENTERPRISE FOUNDATION





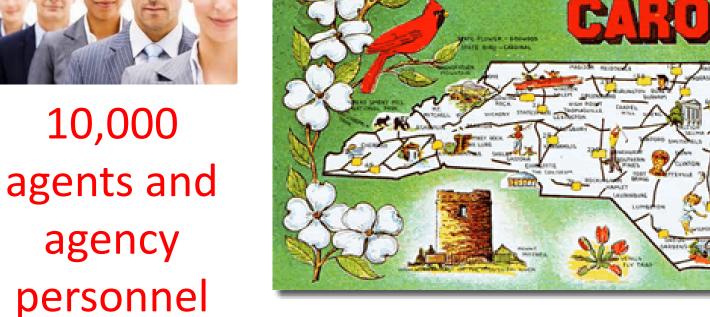
Passage of a hands-free law is IIANC's **Top Legislative Priority** for the 2019 Session of the **NC General Assembly**





etings







800 agencies all across NC





FREE ADVERTISING FOR IIANC MEMBERS















Working within a collaborative partnership of insurers and agents, highway safety organizations, law enforcement, related advocacy groups and Commissioner of Insurance Mike Causey, we will coordinate advocacy and engagement in support of hands-free legislation.





How will it work?

This bill will prohibit drivers from using a hand-held phone behind the wheel

The Brian Garlock Act will introduce a Hands-Free law in North Carolina



#HandsFreeNorthCarolina

Sources: ¹ North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program ² Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina (IIANC) ³ Georgia State Patrol ⁴ TrueMotion

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A TOWN HALL MEETING





Voter Attitudes on Distracted Driving Conducted by Meredith College Poll Program (Statewide, Registered Voters, August 25 - 30, 2018, N = 750, $\pm 4\%$)

- More than half of respondents 50.9% agree that 'distracted driving is the MOST serious road and highway safety problem in North Carolina today.'
- Another 42.2% said they feel distracted driving is a serious problem but perhaps not the *most* serious that's a total of <u>93.1% who see distracted driving as a **serious** problem.</u>
- 95.9% agreed the distracted driving specifically using a mobile phone while driving is as bad as as drunk driving (more dangerous = 57.8%; at least as dangerous = 38.1%).
- <u>It's not partisan</u> 52.5% of Democrats, 52% of Republicans, 48.7% of Unaffiliates agree distracted driving is the most serious road and highway safety problem.



Voter Attitudes on Distracted Driving Conducted by Meredith College Poll Program (Statewide, Registered Voters, August 25 – 30, 2018, N = 750, ±4%)

- A plurality (43.6%) support having a 'hands-free' law, slightly more than support a total ban on mobile phone use while driving (38.4%) – <u>only 3% supported no restriction</u> on using a mobile phone while driving.
- More than half (50.2%) are convinced a 'hands-free' law would reduce the number of accidents.
- 52.4% say support for a 'hands-free' law would make them more likely to support a candidate running for the NC General Assembly 24% are much more likely, and 28.4% somewhat more likely.
- Only 6.6% say it would make the less likely to support a legislative candidate (3.3% much less likely, and 3.3% somewhat more likely.



Rep. Kevin Corbin NC House District 120 Cherokee, Clay, Macon, Graham Counties Sen. Jim Burgin NC Senate District 12 Harnett, Johnston, Lee Counties Sen. Todd Johnson NC Senate District 35 Union County Sen. Vickie Sawyer NC Senate District 34 Iredell, Yadkin Counties



SENATE BILL 364

Short Title: Brian Garlock Act.

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(Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Tarte, Lee, and Ballard (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 27, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

- 2 AN ACT TO MAKE USING A MOBILE TELEPHONE OR ELECTRONIC 3 COMMUNICATION DEVICE UNLAWFUL WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR 4 VEHICLE ON A PUBLIC STREET, HIGHWAY, OR PUBLIC VEHICULAR AREA 5 UNLESS HANDS-FREE EQUIPMENT IS USED BY THE OPERATOR. 6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts: 7 SECTION 1. This act shall be known as the "Brian Garlock Act." 8 SECTION 2. G.S. 20-137.3, 20-137.4, and 20-137.4A are repealed. 9 SECTION 3. Article 3 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding 10 a new section to read: 11 "§ 20-137.3A. Unlawful use of a mobile telephone or electronic communication device. 12 Definitions. - The following definitions apply in this section: (a) 13 (1)Electronic communication device. - Any electronic device other than a 14 mobile telephone that is capable of providing data communication between 15 two or more persons, including a personal digital assistant, an electronic 16 device with mobile data access, a laptop computer, a pager, a smartwatch, a 17 broadband personal communication device, a two-way messaging device, an 18 electronic game, and a portable computing device. This term does not 19 include equipment installed and used in a motor vehicle for the purposes of 20 (i) providing emergency assistance, information, or other services to the 21 person operating the motor vehicle or (ii) providing video entertainment to 22 the passengers in the rear seats of a motor vehicle. 23 (2)Emergency situation. - Circumstances such as medical concerns, unsafe 24 road conditions, matters of public safety, or mechanical problems that create 25 a risk of harm for the operator or passengers of a motor vehicle or school 26 bus. 27 Hands-free equipment. - An internal feature or function of a mobile (3) 28 telephone or electronic communication device, or an attachment or addition 29 to a mobile telephone or electronic communication device, whether or not 30 permanently part of the mobile telephone or electronic communication 31 device, by which a person uses a mobile telephone or electronic 32 communication device without the use of either hand. This term includes 33 equipment physically or electronically integrated into a motor vehicle that 34 allows a person to use a mobile telephone or electronic communication 35 device without the use of either hand. This term does not include a computer
 - * S 3 6 4 V 1 *

- Heighten awareness that distracted driving is dangerous
- Create a disincentive to engage in the behavior
- Appropriate penalty
- Insurance consequence
- Reasonable application
- What can get passed





Georgia News

Report: GA Hands-Free Law decreases traffic fatalities, insurance claims

By: WSAV Staff ➡ Posted: Oct 15, 2018 12:34 PM EDT Updated: Oct 15, 2018 06:57 PM EDT



ATLANTA - Following the start of Georgia's Hands-Free Law in July, officials say traffic fatalities, crashes and insurance claims are down in the state.

As of September 30, traffic crash fatalities are down 11 percent year to date, which is the largest decrease of Georgia traffic fatalities in 10 years. In addition, reports say there have been 128 fewer fatalities in 2018 over 2017, year to date.



Aren't there other distractions than just using mobile phone while driving?

➢Sure, but enforcement and practicality make addressing those difficult (a ban on children saying 'are we there yet?'). IIANC supports at least addressing this part of the distracted driving problem.

Won't self-driving cars eliminate the need for 'hands-free?'

➢Perhaps, but autonomous cars are likely to take two decades or longer to be the norm – let's make our roads safer until that time.

Is this just another instance of government being the 'nanny state?'

➤We must balance personal freedom with public safety (especially when something has the real potential to cause harm to an innocent person), but in this instance there is an economic benefit from having fewer accidents, injuries and fatalities.



Why do insurance agents care about this?

Practically, anything that helps decrease accidents and injuries keeps the cost of insurance from becoming too costly for families – but, frankly independent insurance agents are very community focused, and their customers tend to be their friends, neighbors and family meaning highway safety is as much a personal issue as a professional one.

Does IIANC has a specific proposal that it will pursue in 2019?

➢We are working with IIANC member state Representative Kevin Corbin, and Senators Jim Burgin, Todd Johnson and Vickie Sawyer on the specific legislation for introduction in the 2019 Session – IIANC supports a 'hands-free' law in whatever language is needed to accomplish that.





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