

Resolution for Support of North Carolina's Proposed Hands Free Law

WHEREAS, in 2018, there were 313,614 reported motor vehicle crashes on North Carolina's highways that resulted in 1,436 persons killed and 125,365 persons injured;

WHEREAS, in 2018, distracted driving accounted for 19.1% of all crashes, 8.4% of all persons killed and 19.3% of all persons injured in reported motor vehicle crashes on North Carolina's highways;

WHEREAS, there are three main types of distraction: visual - taking your eyes off the road, manual - taking your hands off the wheel and cognitive - taking your mind off what you're doing (1);

WHEREAS, because driving is a complex task that requires your full attention, any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing (2);

WHEREAS, while existing crash data show that distracted driving plays a major role in the high number of road deaths, legislators rely on law enforcement officials to gather crash data to support further distracted driving analysis (3);

WHEREAS, law enforcement officials rarely witness a driver's pre-crash behavior, limiting their ability to identify and report the true cause of a collision (3);

WHEREAS, while legislation prohibiting cell phone use while the device is in the driver's hand can assist with improving law enforcement efforts, other state and federal initiatives are needed in order to eliminate distracted driving;

WHEREAS, strengthening North Carolina's current cell phone usage laws is consistent with the mission of the Executive Committee for Highway Safety; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Executive Committee for Highway Safety supports revising North Carolina General Statutes to prohibit the use of a wireless communication device while holding such device in the driver's hands.

APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY
March 4, 2019

- (1) U.S. Department of Transportation. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. *Policy Statement and Compiled FAQs on Distracted Driving*. Available from <http://www.nhtsa.gov.edgesuite-staging.net/Driving+Safety/Distracted+Driving/Policy+Statement+and+Compiled+FAQs+on+Distracted+Driving>
- (2) U.S. Department of Transportation. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Available from <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/distracted-driving>
- (3) National Conference of State Legislatures. *State and Federal Efforts to Reduce Distracted Driving*. Available from <http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/state-and-federal-efforts-to-reduce-distracted-driving.aspx>

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