

Comprehensive List of Traffic Safety Related Legislation (2018)
(5-10-18)

Cell Phone Ban While Driving

HB 1600, sponsored by Rep. Galen Higdon (R-St. Joseph), proposes to prohibit persons who receive compensation for transporting passengers from using a hand-held electronic wireless communication device while driving. Any enacted provision would be titled the “Fair Fare Passenger Safety Act of 2018.” *Status: Voted Do Pass Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety on 3-26-18.*

SB 903, sponsored by Sen. Bob Dixon (R-Springfield), proposes to repeal Missouri’s current no texting while driving provisions in favor of a different approach, with the goal of it being more enforceable. SB 903 expands Section 304.012, RSMo, relative to requiring a motorist to exercise a high degree of care when operating a motor vehicle. A violation of this section of law is commonly referred to as “careless and imprudent driving.” The section is expanded to specifically include, but not be limited to, the “operation of a vehicle while using a cell phone, personal digital assistant, electronic device with mobile data access, laptop computer, pager, electronic game, portable computing device, or global navigation satellite system receiver, or while otherwise diverting one’s attention from safe operation of the vehicle.” *Status: Reported Do Pass (S) Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety on 2-26-18.*

HB 1292, sponsored by Rep. Mike Henderson (R-Bonne Terre) and **HB 2631** sponsored by Rep. Chris Dinkins (R-Annapolis), propose to prohibit all drivers from text messaging while operating a motor vehicle in a school zone. *Status: Bills not referred to a committee.*

HB 1745 sponsored by Rep. Jim Hanson (R-Frankford), proposes to expand current law to prohibit all ages from sending, reading, or writing a text message or electronic message while driving, unless the device is being used in a hands-free manner. *Status: Bill not referred to a committee.*

HB 1640 sponsored by Rep. Gretchen Bangert (D-St. Louis); and **SB 784** sponsored by Sen. Jamilah Nasheed (D-St. Louis), propose to expand current law to prohibit all ages from using a hand-held electronic wireless communications device while operating a motor vehicle. The prohibition includes texting and making telephone calls. *Status: SB 784 referred to (S) Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety on 1-17-18. HB 1640 has not been referred to committee.*

HB 1302, sponsored by Rep. Galen Higdon (R-St. Joseph); **HB 1489** sponsored by Rep. Mike Matthiesen (R-Bridgeton); **HB 1622** sponsored by Rep. Bill Reiboldt (R-Neosho); **HB 1952** sponsored by Rep. Nate Tate (R-St. Clair); **HB 2095** Rep. Greg Razer (D-Kansas City); **SB 749** sponsored by Sen. Wayne Wallingford (R-Cape Girardeau); and **SB 755** sponsored by Sen. Jill Schupp (D-Creve Coeur), propose to expand current law to prohibit all ages from using a hand-held electronic wireless communications device while operating a motor vehicle. The prohibition includes texting and making telephone calls. The legislation would also prohibit any person less than 18 years of age or any person with an instruction permit or intermediate license from using an electronic wireless communication device, whether hands free or not, while operating a motor vehicle. Further, the bill amends the penalty provisions. These bills have a potential to qualify Missouri for federal safety grant funds. *Status: SB 749 and SB 755 referred to (S) Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety. Other bills listed have not been referred to committee. No hearings scheduled.*

Primary Enforcement of Seat Belt Law

HB 1519, sponsored by Rep. Bill Reiboldt (R-Neosho) and **HB 2685**, sponsored by Rep. Rory Rowland (D-Independence), propose to allow Missouri’s seat belt law to be enforced as a primary offense, similarly to other traffic laws. *Status: Bills not yet referred to a committee.*

Motorcycle Helmets

HB 1426, sponsored by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Lamar). This bill would prohibit a law enforcement office from stopping, inspecting, or detaining a motorcyclist to solely enforce the requirement that he or she be wearing a helmet. *Status: Referred to (H) General Laws on 1-24-18. No hearing scheduled.*

SB 556, sponsored by Sen. Dan Brown (R-Rolla) and **HB 2158** – Sponsored by Rep. Shane Roden (R-Cedar Hill). This legislation removes the all rider motorcycle helmet law and provides only operators and passengers under 18 years of age are required to wear a helmet. Motorcycle operators over 18 who do not wear a motor cycle helmet must meet certain insurance coverage thresholds. *Status: SB 556 sits on the Senate Calendar for Perfection and could be brought up for debate on the Senate Floor at any time. HB 2158 was Voted Do Pass in House General Laws Committee on 4-03-18.*