

CASE Newsletter

California Association for Safety Education Volume XXIII, No. 1 - March 2013

Hands-free Texting While Driving Would be Banned Under Bill

Bay Area Assemblyman Jim Frasier, (D-Oakley) wants to prohibit texting with hands-free mobile devices while driving. California already bars texting with a hand-held electronic device while driving but permits the practice with voice-activated devices. That legislation (AB 1536) passed last year and went into effect January 1, 2013.

Frasier's bill, Assembly Bill 313, would essentially ban all texting while driving by also outlawing voice-controlled devices. CASE is in support of this legislation, which is scheduled to be heard in committee March 15. Following are excerpts from the text of the bill providing the author's rationale:

- (a) Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America's roadways. In 2011, more than 3,300 people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver. Approximately 400,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver.
- (b) New research published in 2012 indicates that the increase in cognitive load and decrease in working memory when talking or texting while driving increases crash risk significantly.
- (c) Driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37 percent.
- (d) Eleven percent of all drivers under 20 years of age involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crash.
- (e) A vast majority of research suggests that there is no difference in the crash risk of hand-held or voice-operated devices. Furthermore, no study has determined that texting while driving is safe.
- (f) Drivers are four times more likely to crash while talking hands free on a phone, which is the same crash risk as driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08.
- (g) Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, which, at 60 miles per hour, is the equivalent of driving the length of a football field blind.
- (h) Text messaging while driving creates a crash risk of 8 to 23 times that of driving while not distracted.
- (i) Nine out of ten drivers support laws that ban texting.

Teen Driving Deaths Increasing

A report released in February by the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) found an increase in fatalities among 16-and 17-year-old drivers after several years of declines in that age group. The report examined deaths of 16-and 17-year-old drivers through the first six months of 2011 and found an 11% increase over the same period in 2010 based on preliminary data supplied by all 50 states and the district of Columbia. Deaths of 16-year-olds rose 16% and 17-year-olds 7%, for an overall jump of 11%.

Twenty-three states had increases in deaths of 16-and 17-year-olds, 19 had decreases, and there was no change in 8 states plus the district of Columbia. Most of the changes were small. In 2011, the highest numbers for the first six months were in Texas (26), North Carolina (17), Florida (15), Illinois (12), Missouri (10), and Pennsylvania (10), all of these states showing increases compared with the first six months of 2010. California was one of the states with no change (7 fatalities in the first six months of both 2010 and 2011).



If this trend continued in the second half of 2011, it will mark a reversal of long-standing yearly declines in teen driver deaths, especially among 16-year-olds. Graduated driver licensing (GDL) systems, which began to be introduced in the mid-1990s, and adverse economic trends in recent years leading to fewer miles behind the wheel, are thought to be primarily responsible for the declines. Deaths reached historic lows in 2010: 158 deaths of 16-year-old drivers compared with 508 in pre GDL 1995; and 250 17-year-old driver deaths compared with 507 in 1995. These are much larger decreases than occurred in other age groups.

Deaths of 16-and 17-year-old drivers in 2011 are still relatively low, and it is not a surprise that the numbers may be stabilizing or increasing slightly. Positive effects based on GDL laws and law upgrades that went into effect between 1996 and 2010 are leveling off. In addition, economic conditions have improved. The economic downturn in 2008 and 2009 is thought to have contributed strongly to crash reductions by reducing travel, especially among teenagers and others with limited income. However, widespread further strengthening of state GDLs is still possible, and compliance with the rules can be improved. Increasing GDL effects in these ways, and finding effective ways outside of GDL to reduce teen crashes are important goals.

Electric Vehicles May Get Noisier

Electric cars, which have soundless engines, will need to make noises to let pedestrians know they're nearby under a NHTSA proposal released in January.

Sounds will need to be detectable when vehicles are traveling slower than 18 mph so electric and hybrid-electric cars can be heard by bicyclists and pedestrians. The cost per vehicle to add external speakers to quiet cars will be about \$35.

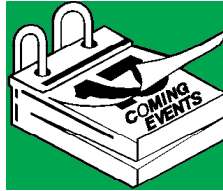
Alert to Retiring Teachers

If you are planning to retire this year, please let us know so we may honor you at the annual CASE conference in Sacramento. Contact Bill Lee, Retired Members Representative, at (310) 831-6471.

Bill would like to remind all retired and retiring members that they are especially invited to join our activities at the conference.

Teacher Preparation Courses

For information on Driver Education teacher prep courses in the Northern California and Riverside areas, contact Anna Maria Toma at UC Riverside School of Extended Education (951) 827-1661.



CASE Calendar

March 16, 2013 - 61st Annual CASE Conference, Hyatt Place Sacramento/Rancho Cordova, Rancho Cordova, CA. Hotel reservations: (916) 635-4799 ext. 5103 (ask for the *CASE Conference rate*).

April 2013 - National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Contact: www.nsc.org

May 2013 - Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Contact: www.nhtsa.gov

May 2013 - National Youth Traffic Safety Month. Contact: www.noys.org

July 13-15, 2013 - NSSP Annual Teen Leadership Conference, Double Tree by Hilton, Portland, Maine. Contact: www.adtsea.org

July 14-17, 2013 - ADTSEA Conference, Double Tree by Hilton, Portland, Maine. Contact: www.adtsea.org

August 16 - Sept. 2, 2013 - Drunk Driving, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. National Crackdown. Contact: www.nhtsa.gov/StopImpairedDriving

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2013 CASE Conference

The 61st Annual CASE Conference will be at the Hyatt Place Sacramento/Rancho Cordova Hotel, Saturday March 16, 2013, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The hotel is located at 10744 Gold Center Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

The discounted pre-registration deadline has passed, but you can still attend for a fee of \$165 for CASE members and \$205 for non-members. A registration form is provided below.

For those staying Friday or Saturday nights at the hotel, the room rate is \$79.00 per night. A buffet breakfast and omelet bar is included if you stay at the hotel.

The hotel reservations number is (916) 635-4799 ext. 5103. Ask for the *CASE Conference rate*.

2013 CASE Conference Registration Form

Mail check to: CASE Conference, 25 Shelbourne Place, San Mateo, CA 94402

Name: _____ School District/Business _____

Address: _____ Evening Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail: _____

Registration Fee Enclosed: \$ _____ (\$165 CASE members, \$205 non-members*)

School District Purchase Orders not accepted (if your school district is paying for registration, a district check must be sent with this registration form attached).

* \$205 fee includes one-year CASE membership

New California Motor Vehicle Laws for 2013

These new laws became effective on January 1, 2013:



Driving Under the Influence—

AB 2020 (Pan)—The law no longer allows a person who has been arrested and is suspected of driving under the influence (DUI) of drugs, the option of a urine test. Prior to this change, a person had the option of submitting either urine or blood to determine the drug content of their blood.



Charter-Party Carriers of Passengers: Alcoholic Beverages: Open Containers—

AB 45 (Chesbro)—This new law prohibits underage drinking in charter-party carriers (limos, buses, etc.) and makes the carrier and driver responsible for communicating this to their passengers. The law also requires a designee, who is at least 25 years of age, to be present whenever there are passengers who are under 21 years of age on board the vehicle and alcohol is being transported. The designee shall be responsible for ensuring the rules are followed, and the safety of the underage passengers throughout the duration of the trip.

Electronic Wireless Communications

—AB 1536 (Miller)—This law allows California drivers to use hands-free technology to talk and text while driving. This will require the use of a device that is specifically designed and configured to allow voice-operated and hands-free operation to dictate, send or listen to a text-based communication. The device is required to also be used in a voice-operated, hands-free manner to be in compliance with the law. *ed. note: Legislation introduced this year in the Assembly (AB 313) would also outlaw voice-controlled devices for texting.*

Financial Responsibility and Insurance

—AB 1708 (Gatto)—Drivers will now have the option of providing proof of insurance or verification of financial responsibility on an electronic device (smartphone, tablet, etc.), when it is

Updated Online Teen Driver Safety Resources

NHTSA	Teen Driver Safety	www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers
NSC	Teen Driving	www.nsc.org/safety_road/teendriving/pages/teen_driving.aspx
ADTSEA	Sharing the Road with Bicyclists Lesson Plan	http://adtsea.org
CHP	Start Smart	www.chp.ca.gov/community/startsmart.html
ABC	Teen Corner	www.abc.ca.gov/teencorner.html
Impact Teen Driver	Impact Teen Drivers	http://impactteendrivers.org
R U Lethal	R U Lethal	http://rulethal.com
Teens in the Driver Seat	Teens in the Driver Seat	www.t-driver.com
MADD	Underage Drinking Prevention	www.madd.org/local-offices/ca/youth-and-education.html
AAA	Keys to Drive	teendriving.aaa.com/CA
Allstate	Teen Driver Site	www.allstateteendriver.com
Farmers	Driving Safety: The Y.E.S. Program	www.farmers.com/parents_yes.html
Geico	Geico Teen Driving	www.geico.com/information/safety/auto/teendriving/parents
Liberty Mutual	Teen Driver	http://www.libertymutual.com/auto-insurance/teen-driving
Progressive	Teen Driver	www.progressive.com/vehicle-resources/teen-driving.aspx
State Farm	“Steer Clear”	www.statefarm.com/insurance/auto_insurance/steerClear_online.asp
Friday Night Live	California Advocates for Teen Driver Safety	www.royerstudios.com/Safe_Drv_Splsh.htm
Adept Driver	Teen Smart	www.adeptdriver.com

requested by law enforcement.

Autonomous Vehicles—SB 1298

(Padilla)—This new law allows driverless cars to be operated on public roads for testing purposes, provided that each vehicle has a fully licensed and bonded operator in the driver’s seat to take control if necessary. The bill also instructs the Department of Motor Vehicles to adopt regulations that govern the licensing, bonding, testing and operation of autonomous vehicle technology.

Driver License—AB 2189 (Cedillo)—

This law allows a driver’s license applicant who provides satisfactory proof that his or her presence in the United States is authorized under federal law, but who is not eligible for a social security account number, to be eligible to receive an

original driver’s license if he or she meets all other qualifications for licensure.

Child Passenger Restraints—AB 1452

(Hill)—Hospitals, clinics, and birthing centers will now be required to provide and discuss contact information regarding child safety seat requirements, installation, and inspection to parents and caregivers upon discharge of a child, if the child is less than eight years of age.

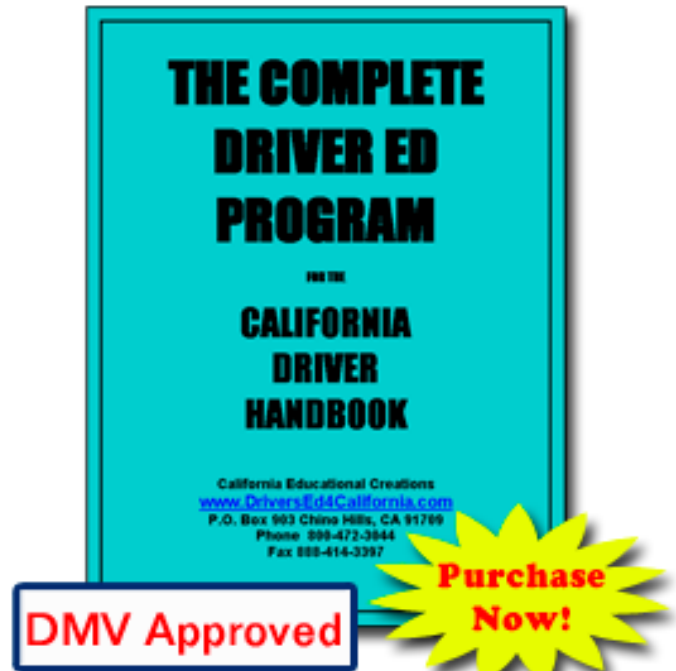


—Source: California Highway Patrol
These points are only a synopsis of some of the new laws adopted. For complete information on chartered bills enacted in 2012, please refer to the Legislative Counsel website at www.LegInfo.ca.gov.

The Most Comprehensive and Economical Driver Education Program for the Classroom!

THE COMPLETE DRIVER ED PROGRAM is the only program that works as a page-by-page interactive companion with the *California Driver Handbook*, published annually by the DMV. The handbook is the ultimate authority on the most current laws and rules of the road in California.

All of the DMV drivers license test questions come from the handbook. This program will have your students working section by section with the handbook through a series of comprehensive worksheets, terminology reviews, and test questions.



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