

Frequently Asked Questions *(continued)*:

Q: Can I use a Bluetooth / Wireless Headphones?

A: Yes. The law does allow the use of Bluetooth and hands-free cell phone usage.

Q: What does the law say about commercial drivers?

A: Under Georgia code 40-6-241 (d), commercial motor vehicle operators:

- May not use more than a single button to initiate a voice conversation.
- May not reach for a wireless telecommunications device in such a manner that they are:
 - a. No longer in a seated driving position
 - b. Not properly restrained by a seat belt

Q: What does the law say about School Bus Operators?

A: A school bus driver may not use a wireless telecommunications device or two-way radio while:

- Loading or unloading passengers.
- The bus is in motion, unless it is used in a manner similar to a two-way radio to allow communication with school or public safety officials.

Why is this law needed in Georgia?

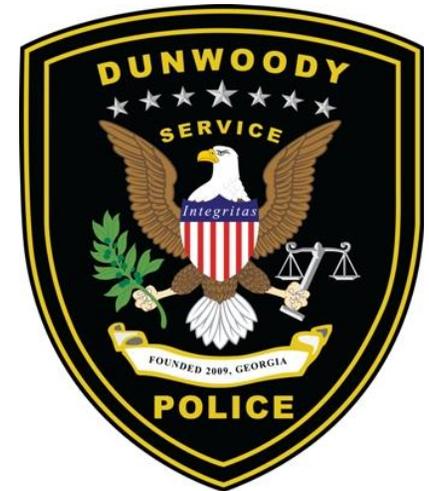
Our state has seen significant increases in vehicle traffic crashes, fatalities and bodily injury. The vast majority of these increases have been in rear-end crashes, single-car crashes and crashes by drivers from 15 to 25-years-old. State and local law enforcement have stated that these incidents are a clear indication of driver inattention. The 15 states that have passed hands-free driving laws saw a 16 percent decrease in traffic fatalities in the two years after the law was passed. In addition, traffic fatalities were reduced even further in subsequent years.

More information about the law can be found online at www.headsupgeorgia.com

Our goal in sharing this information with you is simple: educate the motoring public about the new law and help reduce future traffic accidents.

What You Need To Know About

GEORGIA'S HANDS FREE LAW



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Beginning July 1, 2018, the Georgia Hands-Free Act will go into effect. This guide provides information on the new law and how it will be enforced.

What is the Georgia Hands-Free Act and when will it go into effect?

Beginning July 1, 2018, the Georgia Hands-free Act will make it illegal for drivers to hold a Wireless Telecommunications Device.

A Wireless Telecommunications Device is defined as:

- A cell / mobile phone
- Portable telephone or text-messaging device
- Personal Digital Assistant
- Stand-alone computer (laptop/tablet)
- GPS receiver
- Any wireless device used to send/receive communications

Drivers will also be prohibited from sending/reading text messages or recording, watching and broadcasting video while operating a vehicle on the roadway.



The new Georgia Law (40-6-241) Explained:

1. A driver may not hold/support a wireless telecommunications device or stand-alone computer with any part of their body.
Exceptions – Earpiece, Headphone, Smartwatch.
2. A driver may not write, send or read any text-based communication.
Exception – Voice-based communication automatically converted to written message.
3. Navigation – GPS may only be accessed by the driver while the vehicle is lawfully parked. The screen may be viewed while the vehicle is in motion, but may not be held or supported by any part of the driver's body.
4. A driver may not watch a video unless it is for navigation.
5. A driver may not record a video while driving.
Exception – Continuously running dash cams

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Are there any exceptions to the new law?

A: Yes. Under Georgia code 40-6-241 (g), exceptions apply to all drivers that are:

- Reporting a traffic accident, medical emergency, fire, crime, or hazardous road condition.
- An employee/contractor of a utility service provider acting within the scope of their employment while responding to a utility emergency.
- A first responder (police, fire, EMS) during the performance of official duties.
- In a lawfully parked vehicle.

Q: Can I use my cell phone while stopped at a stop sign or red light?

A: No. The law prohibits the use of wireless telecommunications devices while stopped at a stop sign or red light. You are still in physical control of the vehicle and the vehicle is not lawfully parked.

Q: What would the fines/penalties be?

A: First conviction: \$50, one point on a license;
Second conviction: \$100, two points on a license;
Third and subsequent convictions: \$150, three points on a license. *(continued on reverse)*