

# Proposed Distracted Driving Legislation

## Bill 16

### Highlights:

- Restricts drivers from holding/using hand-held/portable communication/entertainment devices such as cell phones, laptops or MP3 players while driving;
- Restricts drivers from reading, writing or attending to personal hygiene or grooming while driving;
- Allows enforcement officers, at their discretion to charge distracted drivers;
- Complements the current *driving without due care and attention* legislation;
- Applies to all vehicles as defined by the *Traffic Safety Act*.

Activity	Legislation
Cell phone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A driver must not hold, view or manipulate an electronic communication device that can send or receive phone calls, electronic data, electronic mail or text messages.</li> <li>• A driver may use a cell phone in hands-free mode.</li> </ul>
Personal digital assistant-PDA devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A driver must not hold, view or manipulate an electronic communication device that can send or receive phone calls, electronic data, electronic mail or text messages.</li> <li>• A driver may use the cell phone function of a PDA in hands-free mode.</li> </ul>
Hand-held wireless or electronic devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A driver must not hold, view or manipulate an electronic device.</li> </ul>
Hands-free communications device	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A driver may use a phone in hands-free mode.</li> </ul>
Two-way (CB) radios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers may not use CB radios unless they are for commercial purposes or search and rescue services.</li> </ul>
Contacting emergency response units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers may use hand held phones to contact emergency response units.</li> </ul>
Portable audio players (e.g., MP3 and other Music/Audio Players)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A person may use a music/audio player but it must be programmed or set up in advance of driving so that drivers are not manually typing or inputting information while driving.</li> <li>• If the music player is connected to the vehicle sound system drivers may use the vehicle controls to operate the MP3 player.</li> </ul>
GPS navigation systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A person may use a GPS system but they must be programmed or set up in advance of driving so that drivers are not manually typing or inputting information while driving.</li> <li>• GPS units must be secured to the vehicle and may only be used in a voice-activated manner while driving.</li> </ul>

Activity	Legislation
Video display screens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A driver may not permit a video display screen to be activated and within view of that driver unless the screen is:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a GPS navigation device being used to obtain navigation information</li> <li>• a cellular telephone being used in hands-free mode,</li> <li>• a logistical transportation tracking system device used to track vehicle location, driver status or the delivery of packages or other goods for commercial purposes,</li> <li>• a dispatch system used for the transportation of passengers,</li> <li>• a collision avoidance system device when used to provide collision avoidance information, or</li> <li>• an instrument, gauge, device or system that is used to provide information to the individual regarding the status of various systems and position of the vehicle.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Logistical Transportation Tracking Systems and Dispatch Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers are restricted from holding, viewing or manipulating these systems while driving.</li> <li>• However, these systems are permitted in vehicles that require them for commercial purposes. Drivers must program them before they begin driving.</li> </ul>
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers are restricted from reading printed materials while driving.</li> </ul>
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers are restricted from writing, drawing or sketching while driving.</li> </ul>
Grooming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers are restricted from attending to personal hygiene or grooming while driving.</li> </ul>

## Highlights:

Driver Group	Proposed Penalty
<p>This would apply to all drivers of all vehicles as defined by the <i>Traffic Safety Act</i>. This includes vehicles like cars, minivans, trucks, motorcycles, motor homes, truck tractors as well as bicycles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$172 fine</li> </ul>

For more information, go to:  
<http://transportation.alberta.ca/distracteddriving.htm>