

2009 -- H 5198

LC00198

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2009

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MISCELLANEOUS RULES

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, and Malik

Date Introduced: January 28, 2009

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-22-11.9 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-22 entitled
2 "Miscellaneous Rules" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-22-11.9. Use of cell phones by minors while operating motor vehicles prohibited.**

4 -- (a) The use of a cell phone by a minor while said minor is operating a motor vehicle shall be
5 prohibited, except in the case of an emergency. Furthermore, the use by a minor of any electronic
6 wireless communication device, other than a voice-activated global positioning or navigation
7 system that is permanently affixed to the vehicle, that sends, reads or writes a text message, shall
8 be prohibited, except in the case of an emergency. For purposes of this section, the term "minor"
9 shall include any person less than eighteen (18) years of age.

10 (b) Any person who violates any of the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall,
11 upon conviction, be punished by a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

12 (c) For a second conviction under this section a person shall be punished by a fine of
13 fifty dollars (\$50.00).

14 (d) For a third or subsequent conviction a person shall be punished by a fine of one
15 hundred dollars (\$100) and/or loss of license until the user reaches his/her eighteenth (18th)
16 birthday.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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- 1 This act would prohibit any minor from using any electronic wireless communication
- 2 device, other than a voice-activated global positioning or navigation system that is permanently
- 3 affixed to the vehicle, which reads or writes a text message except in the case of emergency.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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