
HOUSE BILL 1474

State of Washington **66th Legislature** **2019 Regular Session**

By Representatives Young, Orcutt, Irwin, and Eslick

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing tax relief to motorists by exempting
2 certain mobile communications technology from retail sales and use
3 tax; adding a new section to chapter 82.08 RCW; adding a new section
4 to chapter 82.12 RCW; creating a new section; providing expiration
5 dates; and declaring an emergency.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that public safety
8 will be improved if hands-free wireless communications devices are
9 widely adopted for use in motor vehicles to replace technology that
10 requires drivers to move their hands from the steering wheel and/or
11 their eyes from the roadway to send or receive messages. The
12 legislature has recently changed the penalties for texting while
13 driving, and redefined the behavior that will subject motorists to
14 penalties. The legislature finds that the legislature can help reduce
15 the cost of communications technology that can be operated hands-free
16 in motor vehicles, and thereby encourage compliance with the new law,
17 by eliminating the sales tax on these items. The legislature's
18 objective is to do everything in its power to make the transition to
19 compliance with the law affordable for all persons irrespective of
20 income.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 82.08
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to any sale of
4 hands-free wireless communications devices, whether sold as original
5 equipment by the manufacturer of an automobile or as an aftermarket
6 product or service.

7 (2) For purposes of this section, "hands-free wireless
8 communications device" means a device specifically designed and
9 configured to allow voice-operated and hands-free operation."

10 (3) This section expires December 31, 2019.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 82.12
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the
14 use of a hands-free wireless communications device, whether sold as
15 original equipment by the manufacturer of an automobile or as an
16 aftermarket product or service.

17 (2) For purposes of this section, "hands-free wireless
18 communications device" has the same meaning as provided in section 2
19 of this act.

20 (3) This section expires December 31, 2019.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The provisions of RCW 82.32.808 do not
22 apply to this act.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
25 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
26 effect immediately.

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