

SB 5037-S.E - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Declares an intent to phase out the use of hand-held wireless communications devices by motorists while operating a vehicle.

Does not apply to a person operating: (1) An authorized emergency vehicle, or a tow truck responding to a disabled vehicle;

(2) A moving motor vehicle using a wireless communications device in hands-free mode;

(3) A moving motor vehicle using a hand-held wireless communications device to: (a) report illegal activity; (b) summon medical or other emergency help; (c) prevent injury to a person or property;

(4) A moving motor vehicle while using a hearing aid.

Does not restrict the operation of an amateur radio station by a person who holds a valid amateur radio operator license issued by the federal communications commission.

Declares that enforcement of this act by law enforcement officers may be accomplished only as a secondary action when a driver of a motor vehicle has been detained for a suspected violation of Title 46 RCW or an equivalent local ordinance or some other offense.

Provides that infractions that result from the use of a wireless communications device while operating a motor vehicle under this act shall not become part of the driver's record under RCW 46.52.101 and 46.52.120. Additionally, a finding that a person has committed a traffic infraction under this act shall not be made available to insurance companies or employers.