

EHB 1214 - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Transportation

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 04/13/2007

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.61 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a person  
6 operating a moving motor vehicle who, by means of an electronic  
7 wireless communications device, other than a voice-activated global  
8 positioning or navigation system that is permanently affixed to the  
9 vehicle, sends, reads, or writes a text message, is guilty of a traffic  
10 infraction.

11 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to a person  
12 operating:

13 (a) An authorized emergency vehicle; or

14 (b) A moving motor vehicle while using an electronic wireless  
15 communications device to:

16 (i) Report illegal activity;

17 (ii) Summon medical or other emergency help;

18 (iii) Prevent injury to a person or property; or

19 (iv) Relay information between a transit or for-hire operator and  
20 that operator's dispatcher, in which the device is permanently affixed  
21 to the vehicle.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect January 1, 2008."

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED 04/13/2007**

1        On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "messages;" strike the  
2 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter  
3 46.61 RCW; prescribing penalties; and providing an effective date."

EFFECT: Clarifies that the reading and writing proscribed by the bill is with respect to text messages and the use of electronic devices, and not, for example, maps. Excludes voice-activated global positioning or navigation systems from the types of electronic wireless devices covered in the bill. Eliminates an exemption for hand-held radio operators. Exempts the relay of information between transit or taxicab (for-hire) operators and their dispatchers using a device that is permanently affixed to the vehicle from the text messaging prohibition in the bill.

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