



# ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## **SB 1141: distracted driving**

**PRIME SPONSOR:** Senator Mesnard, LD 17

**BILL STATUS:** [House Engrossed](#)

### **Overview**

Prohibits a person from driving a motor vehicle while distracted.

### **History**

[Laws 2017, Chapter 209](#) established the prohibition on teenage drivers from using a wireless communication device during the operation of a motor vehicle. Currently, a person who is at least 15 years and six months of age may apply to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for an instruction permit of a class D or G license. A permittee may not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless communication device for any reason except during an emergency in which stopping the motor vehicle is impossible or will create an additional emergency or safety hazard. A peace officer may not stop or issue a citation for a violation, unless the peace officer has reasonable cause to believe there is another alleged motor vehicle violation ([A.R.S. § 28-3154](#)). A person who is under 18 years and at least 16 years may apply to ADOT for a class G driver license. For the first six months that a class G licensee holds the license or until the licensee's 18th birthday, the licensee is prohibited from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless communication device for any reason except: 1) during an emergency in which stopping the motor vehicle is impossible or will create an additional emergency or safety hazard; or 2) when using an audible turn-by-turn navigation system under specified conditions. If a licensee is found responsible for using a wireless communication device while driving, the penalties are as follows:

1. For the first violation, a maximum civil penalty of \$75 and an extension of the restriction for an additional 30 days;
2. For the second violation, a maximum civil penalty of \$100 and an extension of the restriction for 60 days;
3. For the third or subsequent violation, a maximum civil penalty of \$100 and the suspension of the licensee's driving privileges for 30 days ([A.R.S. § 28-3174](#)).

### **Provisions**

1. Prohibits a person from driving a motor vehicle while distracted. (Sec. 2)
2. States that a person commits a violation if both of the following occur while driving a motor vehicle:
  - a. The person engages in any activity that is not related to the actual driving of the motor vehicle in a manner that visibly interferes with safely driving the motor vehicle; and
  - b. The person drives a motor vehicle in a manner that is an immediate hazard to a person or property or the person does not exercise reasonable control of a motor vehicle as necessary to avoid collision. (Sec. 2)
3. Makes a technical change. (Sec. 1)

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