

HB 306 -- Cell Phone Use in Construction Zones

Sponsor: Gatschenberger

This bill prohibits a person from using a hand-held electronic wireless communications device including a cell phone, palm pilot, blackberry, or other mobile electronic device used to communicate verbally or by text or electronic messaging while operating a motor vehicle within a construction or work zone, unless the person is operating an authorized emergency vehicle or using the device to report illegal activity, summon medical or emergency help, prevent injury to a person or property, or relay information between a transit or for-hire operator and the dispatcher through a device that is permanently affixed to the vehicle. The bill exempts any device that is permanently embedded into the design of the motor vehicle; a vehicle that is lawfully parked or stopped; an operator performing his or her official duties as a law enforcement officer, fire department member, or ambulance driver; and the use of global positioning systems (GPS) or wireless communications devices used to transmit or receive data as part of a digital dispatch system. Anyone violating these provisions will be guilty of an infraction and will be assessed points for a moving violation under the driver's license point system.