HB 473 2009

A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to school bus safety; providing a short 3 title; designating Drowsy Driving Prevention Week; 4 encouraging the Department of Highway Safety and Motor 5 Vehicles and the Department of Transportation to educate 6 the law enforcement community and the public about the 7 relationship between fatique and driving performance; 8 creating s. 316.6152, F.S.; providing definitions; 9 restricting use of mobile telecommunications devices by 10 school bus drivers; providing penalties; providing effective dates. 11 12 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 14 15 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Ronshay Dugans Act." 16 Section 2. (1) The first week of September is designated 17 as "Drowsy Driving Prevention Week" in this state. 18 19 During Drowsy Driving Prevention Week, the Department 20 of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Department of 21 Transportation are encouraged to educate the law enforcement 22 community and the public about the relationship between fatigue 23 and performance and the research showing fatigue to be as much 24 of an impairment as alcohol and as dangerous behind the wheel. Section 3. Effective October 1, 2009, section 316.6152, 25 26 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

Page 1 of 3

316.6152 School bus driver; use of mobile

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

telecommunications device. --

27

28

HB 473 2009

(1) For purposes of this section:

- (a) "Commercial mobile radio service" has the same meaning as in 47 C.F.R. s. 20.3.
- (b) "Mobile telecommunications device" means a wireless telephone or other device used to access the services of a commercial mobile radio service for the purpose of sending or receiving voice, text, or other data, including, but not limited to, computer data, electronic mail, electronic messages, games, music, pictures, text, or video. The term "mobile telecommunications device" includes, but is not limited to, a cellular telephone, cellular telephone accessory device, computer, game machine, personal digital assistant, and text messaging device but does not include a pager as defined in 47 C.F.R. s. 22.99.
- (2) (a) A person who is driving or in actual physical control of a public or nonpublic school bus shall not use any mobile telecommunications device.
 - (b) This subsection does not apply:
- 1. When the school bus is stopped and the engine is not running or when the school bus is stopped completely outside the normal flow of traffic; or
- 2. When the person who is driving or in actual physical control of the school bus is using the device to contact one of the following regarding an emergency situation:
 - a. A school administrator.
 - b. A law enforcement agency.
 - c. A firefighting service.
- d. An emergency communications E911 system service.

Page 2 of 3

HB 473 2009

57	e. A hospital or emergency rescue service.
58	(3) A person who violates paragraph (2)(a) commits a
59	misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.
60	775.082 or s. 775.083.
61	Section 4. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
62	act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.