

By Senator Lynn

7-00014-11

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to state uniform traffic control;  
 3           prohibiting the use of electronic communication  
 4           devices to send or receive text-based communications  
 5           while operating a motor vehicle; providing exceptions;  
 6           providing a penalty; providing an effective date.

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 8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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10           Section 1. Use of electronic communication devices in motor  
 11 vehicles.-

12           (1) A person may not use an electronic communication device  
 13 to compose, send, or read a text-based communication, including  
 14 text messaging, e-mail, instant messaging, or paging, while  
 15 operating a motor vehicle on a street or highway, as defined in  
 16 s. 316.003(53), Florida Statutes.

17           (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to:

18           (a) A law enforcement officer or emergency medical services  
 19 personnel in the performance of their official duties; or

20           (b) A person using such device to:

- 21           1. Report illegal activities;
- 22           2. Summon medical or other emergency help; or
- 23           3. Prevent injury or damage to a person or property.

24           (3) A violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic  
 25 infraction, punishable by a fine of \$100 for each offense.

26           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.