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Senator Ryan McKenna's Measure to Ban All Motorists from Text Messaging While Driving Approved by Senate

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Ryan McKenna, D-Crystal City, recently announced that his measure making it illegal for all drivers to text message on a cell phone while driving has received Senate approval. The provision is included in [Senate Bill 781](#), sponsored by Sen. McKenna, which passed the full Senate on March 18.

“Texting while driving seriously decreases a driver’s ability to react and pay attention and it makes them more likely to be involved in an accident,” said Sen. McKenna. “It is a danger to the families on Missouri roads who are driving safely.”

A law passed last year prohibiting drivers who are 21 or younger from text messaging while operating a motor vehicle. The provision included in SB 781 this year would prohibit all drivers from sending, reading, or writing text messages or electronic messages while operating a vehicle on highways in Missouri.

“Last year’s law was a start to end this dangerous practice on our roadways, but it did not go far enough,” said Sen. McKenna. “It is my hope that by the time the final gavel falls in May, a bill containing a texting ban for all drivers will be on the governor’s desk awaiting his signature into law.”

Senate Bill 781 now moves to the House for similar consideration.

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