



DISTRACTED DRIVING BILL FOR NEW DRIVERS (TRN 04) FACT SHEET

Bill Highlights

- The Bill applies to Graduated Drivers License (GDL) holders between the ages of 15 ½ and 17 years old
- The Bill bans GDL drivers from (but not restricted to) the following while driving:
 - Use of a wireless telephone, even a hands-free device
 - Use of any electronic device, such as video games, portable DVD players, and Text messengers
 - Engaging in personal grooming, such as applying make up, or shaving
 - Consuming food or beverages
 - Attempting to reach for any object or device

Purpose

- To save lives, prevent personal injury and damage to property, and to ensure that young drivers develop good driving habits.

Penalties

- First Violation: the provisional license shall be suspended for a 3-month period
- Second Violation: the provisional license shall be revoked for a 6-month period

Statistics

STATE DATA

- From 2001-2005, 31,515 motor vehicle crashes resulted in injuries
Approximately 7% or 2,134 of this total involved drivers between 15-17 years old.

FEDERAL DATA (*National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Data*)

- Distracted drivers are 50% more likely to be seriously injured or killed in crashes compared to attentive drivers.
- Drivers under the age of 20 are twice as likely to be in distracted driver-related accidents as are drivers of other ages.