

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 1615

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|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-----------|
| House of Origin | <u> X </u> | Introduced | <u> </u> | Substitute | <u> </u> | Engrossed |
| Second House | <u> </u> | In Committee | <u> </u> | Substitute | <u> </u> | Enrolled |

2. Patron: Delegate A. T. Howell, Jr.

3. Committee: Transportation

4. Title: Establish penalty for text messaging while driving.

5. Summary: This bill prohibits operation of a motor vehicle, bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped on the Commonwealth's highways while using any wireless telecommunications device for the purpose of sending, receiving, or reading any text message. The prohibition, however, does not extend to entering names or numbers for making telephone calls and does not apply to the operator of emergency vehicles. Violations are punishable by fines of \$20 for first offenses and \$50 for subsequent offenses.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate (see Section 8)

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently, there is insufficient information available to reliably estimate how many violations could result from this proposed legislation. However, any fines collected under these provisions would be deposited to the Literary Fund.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: law enforcement agencies

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar in intent to HB 1876 and HB 2380.

Date: 1/23/2009 sas

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