

# HOUSE BILL 212

R5

6lr0597

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By: **Delegates Turner, Atterbeary, Barkley, Brooks, Ebersole, Hill, Hixson, Jalisi,  
Lam, Pendergrass, Sophocleus, and B. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2016

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Use of Handheld Telephone While Driving – Increased Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum fines for an initial violation and subsequent  
4 violations of certain prohibitions against using a handheld telephone while driving  
5 a motor vehicle; and generally relating to the prohibition against using a handheld  
6 telephone while driving a motor vehicle.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 21–1124.2(c) and (d)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Transportation

14 Section 21–1124.2(e)(1)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Transportation**

20 21–1124.2.

21 (c) The following individuals may not use a handheld telephone while operating  
22 a motor vehicle:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) A driver of a Class H (school) vehicle that is carrying passengers and in  
2 motion; and

3 (2) A holder of a learner's instructional permit or a provisional driver's  
4 license who is 18 years of age or older.

5 (d) (1) This subsection does not apply to an individual specified in subsection  
6 (c) of this section.

7 (2) A driver of a motor vehicle that is in motion may not use the driver's  
8 hands to use a handheld telephone other than to initiate or terminate a wireless telephone  
9 call or to turn on or turn off the handheld telephone.

10 (e) (1) A person convicted of a violation of this section is subject to the  
11 following penalties:

12 (i) For a first offense, a fine of not more than [~~\$75~~] **\$150**;

13 (ii) For a second offense, a fine of not more than [~~\$125~~] **\$250**; and

14 (iii) For a third or subsequent offense, a fine of not more than [~~\$175~~]  
15 **\$350**.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 October 1, 2016.