

# SENATE BILL 98

R5  
HB 380/08 – ENV

9lr0760  
CF 9lr0705

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By: **Senator Stone**  
Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2009  
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Use of Text Messaging Device While Driving – Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from using a text messaging device to write,  
4 send, or read a text message while operating a motor vehicle.

5 BY adding to  
6 Article – Transportation  
7 Section 21–1124.1  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Transportation  
12 Section 27–101(a) and (b)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Transportation**

18 **21–1124.1.**

19 **A PERSON MAY NOT USE A TEXT MESSAGING DEVICE TO WRITE, SEND, OR**  
20 **READ A TEXT MESSAGE WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.**

21 27–101.

22 (a) It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of the  
23 Maryland Vehicle Law unless the violation:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (1)    Is declared to be a felony by the Maryland Vehicle Law or by any  
2 other law of this State; or

3                   (2)    Is punishable by a civil penalty under the applicable provision of  
4 the Maryland Vehicle Law.

5                   (b)    Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person convicted of a  
6 misdemeanor for the violation of any of the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law is  
7 subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

8                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
9 October 1, 2009.