

# HOUSE BILL 196

R5

11r1179  
CF 11r2384

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By: **Delegates Malone, Kach, and F. Turner**  
Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2011  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Use of Text Messaging Device While Driving – Prohibited**  
3 **Acts**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from using a text messaging device to read a  
5 text message while operating a motor vehicle; clarifying that a certain  
6 prohibition against a person using a text messaging device to write, send, or  
7 read a text message while operating a motor vehicle includes a prohibition  
8 against writing, sending, or reading an electronic message; repealing a certain  
9 provision of law that applies the text messaging prohibition to an operator of a  
10 motor vehicle only if the motor vehicle is in motion; and generally relating to  
11 prohibited acts with respect to the use of a text messaging device while driving.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Transportation  
14 Section 21–1124.1  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Transportation**

20 21–1124.1.

21 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (2) “9–1–1 system” has the meaning stated in § 1–301 of the Public  
23 Safety Article.

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



1           (3)    “Text messaging device” means a hand held device used to send a  
2 text message or an electronic message via a short message service, wireless telephone  
3 service, or electronic communication network.

4           (b)    Subject to subsection (c) of this section, a person may not use a text  
5 messaging device to write [or], send, **OR READ** a text message **OR AN ELECTRONIC**  
6 **MESSAGE** while operating a motor vehicle [in motion or] in the travel portion of the  
7 roadway.

8           (c)    This section does not apply to the use of:

9                   (1)    A global positioning system; or

10                   (2)   A text messaging device to contact a 9–1–1 system.

11           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 October 1, 2011.