

LID E44	Balanca ta tha tactar	<u> </u>	or Report For Emergency Calendar-Wednesday, March 15, 2017	F
HB 511	Relating to the training	Human	This bill repeals part of the Texas Family Code that puts a deadline for kinship caregivers to enter a Permanency Care	<u>Favorable</u>
By:	period for a temporary	Services	Assistance agreement (PCA). A PCA takes place when a child deemed by DFPS unable to be reunified with their biological	Evaluated by:
Davis of	insurance agent's license		parents, and remain permanently with relatives, not resulting in adoption. Currently, the deadline to enroll in a PCA is	Kylie McNaught
Harris			August 31, 2017.	210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org
			A family that enters a PCA must:	<u>,</u>
			Apply to become foster parents	
			Have child in foster care for six months	
			Obtain legal custody of child through court	
			Depending on the child's needs a family can receive anywhere between \$400-525 per month. This is payable to children	
			up to the age of 18. In some cases, they can receive payment up to the age of 21 if the family entered after the child	
			turned 16. There are no income requirements to receive this fund.	
			Dropping the enrollment deadline for this helpful program will be an added incentive for kinship caregivers to take in children who need a permanent residence that if familiar to them. Along with this, the bill has been given a positive fiscal note of \$3 Million. For these reasons, HB 511 will serve to benefit children and their relatives who take on the important responsibility of permanent kinship care.	
		LSG F	loor Report For General Calendar-Wednesday, March 15, 2017	
HB 62	Relating to the use of a wireless	Transportation	The bill creates a statewide criminal offense when using a mobile device while operating a vehicle. Cell phone use in this	<u>Favorable</u>
Ву:	communications device while		bill only includes texting. It does exempt in the cases of emergencies, reporting illegal activity, people with driver's permit,	Evaluated by:
Craddick	operating a motor vehicle;		and individuals licensed by Federal Communications Commission using a radio frequency device. It also craves out some	Andrea Elizondo
	creating a criminal offense;		individuals with occupational obligations such as dispatchers, digital network, or software application.	210-382-4295
	modifying existing criminal penalties.			Andrea@texaslsg.o

Legislative Study Group Texas House of Representatives If an individual is caught using the phone while driving, it will result in a misdemeanor and fine. Fine Scale: •First offense will range from \$25-\$99 •If the individual has been previously convicted of the same action then, the fine will range from \$100-\$200. Additionally, a person commits an offense if the operator uses a portable wireless communication device to read, write, or send an electronic message while driving unless the vehicle is stopped. Also, the bill states that a peace officer may not take possession of the phone or otherwise inspect a portable wireless communication device in the possession of the operator unless authorized by the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Penal Code, or other law. Lastly, the bill states that the department may not assign points to a person's license. The Texas Department of Texas shall post a sign at each point at which an interstate highway or United States highway

enters this state that informs people that all cell phone use is prohibited in the state and that if caught using the phone while driving there will be a fine.

It is assumed that any state costs associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be absorbed with existing agency resources. The fiscal impact would vary by locality and would depend on the number of offenses committed and the amount of the fine issued.

Texas is one of four states that doesn't have a statewide law banning cellphone use while driving. Currently, there are over 100 cities that have implemented similar ordinances. Additionally, there are already laws for school bus drivers to not text and drive and businesses that bar their drivers from using mobile devices as well.

In a State Farm Insurance survey, 88% of Texans approve of having a law prohibiting cellphone use while driving. Motor vehicle crashes are among the top two causes of injury death throughout a person's lifetime, and is it also the number one cause of work-related death. According to research conducted at the Virginia Tech's Transportation Institute, a driver who texts is 23 times more likely to get involved in a motor accident. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 9% of all drivers at any given time are using cell phones, and the National Safety Council estimates about 1 in 4 motor vehicle crashes involved cell phone use at the time of the crash. Further, research studies have shown that drivers using hands-free and handheld cell phones tend to "look at" but not "see" objects (this is referred as "inattention blindness"). Estimates indicate drivers using cell phones look at but, fail to see up to 50% of the information in their

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		driving environment. The results from a Carnegie Mellon study showed that listening to sentences on cell phones decreased activity by 37% in the brain's parietal lobe, an area associated with driving.	
		Opponents may say that this is a form of taking away civil liberties but instead is more common sense policy.	

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