



Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman

Treasurer, Rep. Elliott Naishtat

LSG Floor Report for General State Calendar – Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 80 By Rep. Craddick, et al.	Relating to the use of a portable wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle; creating a criminal offense; modifying existing criminal penalties.	Transportation	<p>In 2014 alone, 463 Texans were killed by distracted driving. HB 80 seeks to reduce preventable fatalities by prohibiting the use of a cell phone to read, write, or send a text-based communication while driving. The bill establishes a misdemeanor offense, punishable by a modest fine, but provides exceptions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a phone call, • Using GPS navigation or voice-operated technology, • Emergency situations, • A communication device affixed to a vehicle for occupational duties, • Law enforcement and emergency personnel acting in an official capacity, and • FCC-licensed operators of radio frequency devices. <p>HB 80 would facilitate continuity of law statewide but would not preempt existing local ordinances that are equal or more stringent than its provisions. Currently, 44 states in the U.S. have already passed texting while driving bans, resulting in an 8% reduction in crash-related hospitalizations, comparable to that for seatbelt laws. HB 80 promotes the safety of Texan families by curbing a dangerous behavior.</p> <p>Speaker Craddick has carried this legislation since 2011. Former Governor Perry vetoed similar legislation after the 82nd session, but the LSG hopes that with a new environment we can finally see this bill become law.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>

OK for Distribution – Rep. Garnet Coleman