



## Gov. Beshear announces new penalty for violation of 'No Texting' law



*Gov. Steve Beshear introduced legislation this year that adds penalty points to the driver's licenses of those caught texting and driving.*

At [Governor Steve Beshear's](#) direction, the [Kentucky Transportation Cabinet](#) soon will assess "penalty points" on the operator's licenses of drivers who are cited and convicted of violating Kentucky's law against texting while driving.

A driver will incur three points for each no-texting violation. The cabinet can suspend the licenses of drivers who incur a specified number of points within a two-year period – 12 points for drivers 18 and older, seven points for drivers younger than 18.

Gov. Beshear announced the enforcement measure at the [2013 Kentucky Lifesavers Conference](#), an annual gathering of transportation leaders and emergency responders from across the Commonwealth.

"Part of the challenge of highway safety is to keep ahead of technology,

The cell phone is symbolic of that challenge. While it has made our lives and jobs easier in many ways, there is no question that far too often it proves to be an irresistible distraction to drivers," Gov. Beshear said.

The ["No Texting While Driving" law](#), enacted by the 2010 General Assembly, forbids anyone to send text messages while driving a motor vehicle. For drivers younger than 18, the law also forbids any use of a cell phone while driving.

To aid in enforcement of the law, Gov. Beshear's package of highway safety legislation submitted to the 2013 General Assembly included a bill – House Bill 294 – to impose penalty points for texting while driving. The bill was approved by the House Transportation Committee but never reached a vote in the full House

before the General Assembly adjourned. Gov. Beshear then decided to have the Transportation Cabinet implement the penalty by administrative regulation. Once the regulation goes through legislative review and takes effect, the cabinet will begin assessing the penalty points.

Some 53,600 crashes in Kentucky in 2012 were attributed to driver distraction, a category that includes cell phone use.

"We have long recognized that cell phone use is a factor in a high number of highway crashes," said Kentucky Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock, who is the Governor's designated representative for highway safety. "I am convinced that the 'No Texting While Driving' law will save lives."



Seat belts are one of the most effective safety features invented. It only takes a second to perform a simple step that best protects you from injury and death, but it's often forgotten during the hustle and bustle of holiday travel. So please buckle up, every trip, every time, so you can give thanks this holiday season and enjoy the time with your loved ones.

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# Director's Message — Bill Bell



## Technology changes can save a generation

Isn't technology great? I typed this column on a computer, emailed it to the editor and it was then copied into this newsletter. In high school, I had to type all of my papers on a Smith Corona. You say you don't know what a Smith Corona is? Google it.

While you're Googling what a Smith Corona is, think about how things used to be and what advances we have made to improve processes, efficiencies and even behavior.

Here are a few examples from the last 100 years or so:

- In the 19th century (and into the mid-20th century), pollution from the industrial revolution killed thousands of people due to the chemicals emitted. Filtration systems and storage facilities have prevented much of these chemicals from entering our environment since the late-1900s. Even coal can be burned to nearly 100 percent clean.
- Much can be said about the development of pharmaceuticals in saving lives but we can just look at one example – polio. In 1952, there were 58,000 new cases of polio in the U.S. alone. Polio can cause paralysis, respiratory problems and death. In the mid-1950s a vaccine was discovered and by 1955 the number of new cases decreased to 5,000. In 2012, there were 212 cases worldwide.

- With the popularity of the automobile coupled with the building of the U.S. interstate system, more people were dying in vehicle crashes in the 1950s and 1960s. So, in the 1960s automakers began equipping their vehicles with seat belts, and in 1968 the federal government mandated that all new cars include seat belts at all seating positions. The seat belt remains the single most important tool in the automobile to protect the driver and passengers from injury or death.

But one statistic remains stubbornly consistent. The No. 1 killer of children ranging from birth to 14 years old is car crashes. We have the opportunity to eliminate or at least move close to zero in this area.

As with many of these major improvements to our civilization you need laws to ensure compliance. And, in many cases it takes at least one generation to realize the fruits of these changes.

Today's young teens have grown up buckling their seat belts, but also have grown up with rapidly changing technology. Will they reach adulthood saying, "Why wasn't anything done to stop texting while driving?"

As we recognize [National Teen Driver Safety Week](#) Oct. 20-26, that is one of the questions we'll be asking ourselves and our teens.

### Did you know?

#### Speed a major factor in teen driver deaths

Speeding is a major contributing factor to teen driver deaths nationwide, but the issue is often overlooked. Click [here](#) for the report by the [Governor's Highway Safety Association \(GHS\)](#).

#### Annual report series monitors progress of teen driver safety

"Miles to Go" is an annual report series from the [Center for Injury Research and Prevention](#) at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and [State Farm Insurance Company](#) that monitors teen driver statistics and trends. Click [here](#) for downloadable charts and graphs from the report.



#### States stepping up efforts to combat distracted driving

A [survey by GHS](#) reveals that since 2010 more states are enacting and enforcing laws, educating the public and collecting data related to distracted driving.



## AT&T joins with state to stop texting and driving

Under the leadership of Gov. Beshear and Lt. Gov. Abramson, Kentucky has made great progress over the past few years in educating Kentuckians about the dangers of texting while driving. Schools and businesses have joined state and local officials to partner in this campaign to keep Kentucky roadways safe.

AT&T Kentucky, in particular, has taken this message to heart and their employees have spent much of 2013 traveling the Commonwealth to share the message that when it comes to texting while driving, "it can wait." In 2011, AT&T started the It Can Wait® movement to raise awareness and save lives. This year, AT&T was joined by three other wireless providers to celebrate "Drive 4 Pledges Day" on Sept. 19 when thousands of Americans across the country took the pledge and shared their commitment to never text and drive.

In Kentucky, Lt. Gov. Abramson commemorated Sept. 19 by signing a proclamation at Kentucky Transportation Cabinet offices, where he was joined by Kentucky State Police Commissioner Rodney Brewer, Kentucky Office of Highway Safety Executive Director Bill Bell and students from Franklin County High School.

"Highway safety has been a major emphasis of our administration," Lt. Gov. Abramson said. "That's why we have taken proactive steps to discourage all drivers from

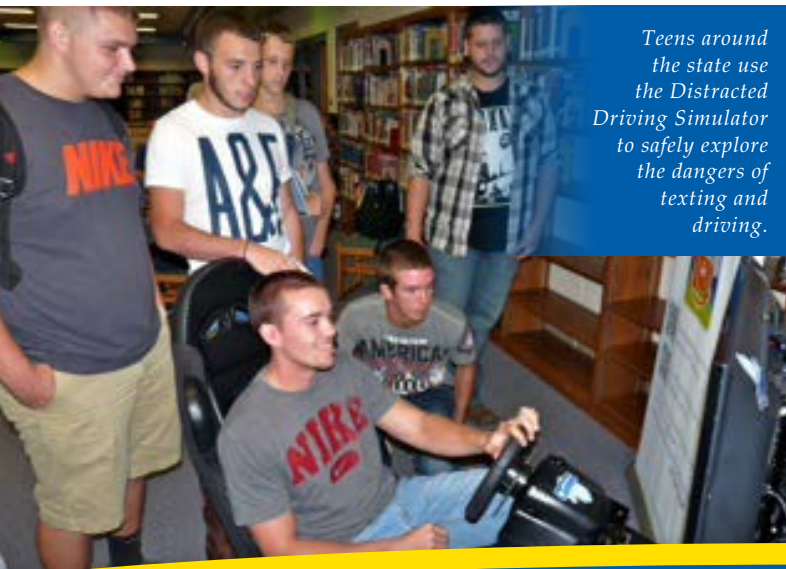
texting, and now are implementing stiffer penalties for those who get caught. One second is all it takes. One second at 70 mph and all of the sudden your life or the life of the person you hit is changed forever."

Earlier this summer, AT&T brought its driving simulator to high schools in Caldwell, Marshall, Bell and Scott counties where students were able to learn firsthand what can happen when texting while driving. At each school, AT&T was joined by legislators and local officials who also tried the simulator and emphasized the safe driving message to students and adults. AT&T has had more than 25 events in Kentucky throughout the It Can Wait campaign.

This partnership continues the commitment of Kentucky state officials to encourage safe driving on Kentucky's roadways. Last year, Gov. Beshear announced that window cling decals featuring the message "No Text on Board" would be available to be affixed to Kentucky state vehicles across the Commonwealth, including those of state law enforcement. Also, throughout the fall, motorists will see "don't text and drive" messages on electronic sign boards along state highways.

"At a time when more people are using wireless devices than ever before, taking the pledge to not text and drive is critical to keeping all those who travel our roadways safe. We appreciate the leadership of Gov. Beshear, Lt. Gov. Abramson and the Kentucky General Assembly to encourage state employees and all Kentuckians to take the pledge and to make it a lifelong commitment," said AT&T Kentucky President Hood Harris.

Individuals can now sign up at [ItCanWait.com](http://ItCanWait.com) to get resources that will help them share their commitment on social media and personalize the movement on the streets of their communities on key activation days. These individuals will join AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile US, Inc., Verizon and more than 200 other organizations by sharing their commitment not to text and drive while increasing awareness of the dangers.



Teens around the state use the Distracted Driving Simulator to safely explore the dangers of texting and driving.

## Your Letters

I just heard your commercial for motorcycle awareness. Thank you! As a rider, I am constantly watching for people who don't see me. Anything that helps raise awareness is greatly appreciated.

I wish that when people studied for their driver's license they had a section about motorcycle awareness. If taught from the onset, maybe we would have better odds out there.

Thanks again,  
Jenny Lee



## Event Calendar

An up-to-date and detailed listing will be on our [Events Facebook page](#)

### Did you know?

#### Foxx named as new U.S. Transportation Secretary

Anthony Foxx was [recently sworn in](#) as the 17th U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

#### NHTSA and FHWA provide tools to help keep pedestrians safe

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Federal Highway Administration are providing a [one-stop shop website](#) with safety tips and resources for local leaders, city planners and pedestrian safety advocates.

#### 'Distracted walking' is sending pedestrians to the ER

Pedestrians are becoming more likely to be injured while using their cellphones. Some 1,500 were treated in U.S. emergency rooms in 2010 as a result, [according to a study](#) by Ohio State University.

#### Backup camera rule pushed back to 2015

A rule that would require backup cameras in new cars sold in the U.S. is [being delayed until 2015](#) as regulators consider giving incentives in their safety ratings to vehicles containing that technology.

#### New regulations aimed at reducing truck driver fatigue

The [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](#) hopes that new federal [hours-of-service regulations](#) improve safety for the motoring public by reducing truck driver fatigue.

#### Americans less concerned about dangerous driving behaviors

Americans are less likely to perceive a serious threat from dangerous driving behaviors such as drunk, aggressive or drowsy driving, according to [surveys by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety](#).

### Contact Us

Kentucky  
Transportation  
Cabinet



Kentucky Office of Highway Safety

200 Mero St., 4th floor  
Frankfort, KY 40622  
502-564-1438 or 1-888-374-8768  
[highwaysafety@ky.gov](mailto:highwaysafety@ky.gov)

Editor: Erin Eggen—  
[erin.eggen@ky.gov](mailto:erin.eggen@ky.gov)

Designer: Dawn Morrow—  
[dawn.morrow@ky.gov](mailto:dawn.morrow@ky.gov)

### Cooperative Agencies



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
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Administration

