
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 291, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§291- Mobile electronic devices; use while operating a
5 commercial motor vehicle prohibited. (a) No person shall
6 operate a commercial motor vehicle while using a mobile
7 electronic device, including using the mobile electronic device
8 for texting as defined under section 286-231, while operating a
9 commercial motor vehicle, as defined under section 286-2.

10 (b) The use of a mobile electronic device for the sole
11 purpose of making a "911" emergency communication shall be an
12 affirmative defense to this section.

13 (c) The following persons shall be exempt from the
14 provisions of subsection (a):

15 (1) Emergency responders using a mobile electronic device
16 while in the performance and scope of their official
17 duties;



1 (2) Drivers using two-way radios while in the performance
2 and scope of their work-related duties and who are
3 operating motor carrier vehicles as defined in section
4 286-201; and

5 (3) Drivers holding a valid amateur radio operator license
6 issued by the Federal Communications Commission and
7 using a half-duplex two-way radio.

8 (d) Any person who is convicted of violating subsection
9 (a) shall be fined not more than \$2,750 in addition to the
10 driving disqualification of section 286-240(e).

11 (e) As used in this section:

12 "Emergency responders" means any firefighters, emergency
13 medical technicians, mobile intensive care technicians, civil
14 defense workers, police officers, and federal and state law
15 enforcement officers.

16 "Mobile electronic device" means any handheld or other
17 portable electronic equipment recognized by the citing officer
18 or other witness to be capable of providing wireless or data
19 communications, or both, between two or more persons or of
20 providing amusement, including but not limited to a cellular
21 phone, text messaging device, paging device, personal digital
22 assistant, laptop computer, video game, or digital photographic



1 device, or any device to input, write, send, receive, or read
 2 text, but does not include any equipment installed in a
 3 commercial motor vehicle for the purpose of providing audio,
 4 navigation, or emergency assistance to the operator of the
 5 commercial motor vehicle or video entertainment to the
 6 passengers in the rear seats of the commercial motor vehicle. A
 7 "two-way radio" or Private Land Mobile Radio System as defined
 8 by Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 90, when
 9 used for business purposes, shall not be considered to be a
 10 "mobile electronic device".

11 "Operate a commercial motor vehicle" means to drive or
 12 assume actual physical control of a commercial motor vehicle
 13 upon a public way, street, road, or highway in the State.

14 "Texting" means the same as defined under 286-231.

15 "Use or using a mobile electronic device" means holding a
 16 mobile electronic device while operating a commercial motor
 17 vehicle."

18 SECTION 2. Section 286-231, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 19 amended as follows:

20 1. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
 21 and to read:



1 "Texting" means manually entering alphanumeric text into,
2 or reading text from, an electronic device, and includes short
3 message service; e-mailing; instant messaging; a command or
4 request to access a world wide web page; and engaging in any
5 other form of electronic text retrieval or entry,
6 for present or future communication.

7 "Texting" does not include:

- 8 (1) Reading, selecting, or entering a telephone number, an
9 extension number, or voicemail retrieval codes and
10 commands into an electronic device for the purpose of
11 initiating or receiving a phone call or using voice
12 commands to initiate or receive a telephone call;
13 (2) Inputting, selecting, or reading information on a
14 global positioning system or navigation system; or
15 (3) Using a device capable of performing multiple
16 functions, including fleet management systems,
17 dispatching devices, smart phones, citizens band
18 radios, and music players, for a purpose that is not
19 otherwise prohibited in this part."

20 2. By amending the definition of "serious traffic
21 violation" to read:



1 "Serious traffic violation" means conviction of any of the
2 following offenses when operating a commercial motor vehicle,
3 except for weight, defect, and parking violations:

4 (1) Excessive speeding[7] involving any single offense for
5 any speed of fifteen miles per hour or more above the
6 posted speed limit;

7 (2) Reckless driving[7] or driving a commercial motor
8 vehicle in disregard of the safety of persons or
9 property, including but not limited to offenses of
10 driving a commercial motor vehicle in wilful or wanton
11 disregard for the safety of persons or property;

12 (3) Improper or erratic traffic lane changes;

13 (4) Following a vehicle ahead too closely;

14 (5) A violation of any state or local law relating to
15 motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking
16 violation, arising in connection with a fatal traffic
17 accident;

18 (6) Driving a commercial motor vehicle without obtaining a
19 commercial driver's license;

20 (7) Driving a commercial motor vehicle without a
21 commercial driver's license in the driver's
22 possession; provided that this paragraph shall not



1 apply to a citation issued under, or an offense
2 disposed of pursuant to~~[-]~~ section 286-116(a) or a
3 substantially similar provision of law in another
4 state; [~~or~~]

5 (8) Driving a commercial motor vehicle without the proper
6 class or endorsements of commercial driver's license
7 for the specific vehicle group being operated or for
8 the passengers or type of cargo being transported~~[-]~~;
9 or

10 (9) Texting while driving in violation of a state or
11 county law or ordinance."

12 SECTION 3. Section 286-235, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 "**§286-235 Commercial driver's license required.** (a) No
15 person shall drive a commercial motor vehicle unless the person
16 holds a valid commercial driver's license and valid applicable
17 endorsements for the vehicle the person is driving, except when
18 driving under a commercial driver's instruction permit and
19 accompanied by the holder of a valid commercial driver's license
20 for the vehicle being driven.



1 (b) No person shall operate a commercial motor vehicle
2 without a commercial driver's license in such person's
3 possession.

4 [~~(b)~~] (c) No person shall drive a commercial motor vehicle
5 while the person's driver's license or permit is suspended,
6 revoked, or canceled, or while subject to a disqualification.

7 [~~(e)~~] (d) No person shall drive a commercial motor vehicle
8 in violation of an out-of-service order."

9 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
10 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
11 begun before its effective date.

12 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on January 7, 2059.



Report Title:

Commercial Driver's License; Electronic Devices; Texting

Description:

Prohibits driving a commercial motor vehicle without possession of commercial driver's license; prohibits the use of mobile electronic devices, including for texting, while operating a commercial motor vehicle. Exempts certain drivers and "911" communication. Effective January 7, 2059. (SB2871 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

