

## Hands Free Law

(House Bill 1360) will be in effect July 1, 2015

### What does this mean?

- No use of **hand held electronic** devices capable of providing voice or data communication while driving or temporarily halted in traffic for a stop sign or traffic signal or other momentary delays
- This includes cell phones, GPS, tablets, iPods, iPads or other devices that require data entry
- Emergency calls to 911 or other public safety agencies will be allowed
- Bluetooth or other **hands-free** electronic devices will be allowed
- **One hand** non-cellular 2-way radio use will be allowed
- Drivers under the age of 18 will not be allowed to use any electronic device (**hand-held or not**) except to report an emergency. Anyone violating this will be subject to penalties and license suspension or revocation.

#### Penalties for Violations

1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	\$100 fine
2 <sup>nd</sup> offense	\$250 fine
3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense within 2 years	\$500 fine

*Penalty assessments will be added to the fines*

### Why is this law important?

- During the past 4 years, **116 fatal crashes in New Hampshire were caused by distraction**
- The increasing use of electronic devices is fast becoming the primary distraction
- While texting a driver is **23** times more likely to crash
- Sending or receiving a text, distracts the driver for **almost 5** seconds
- At **50** miles per hour, **we travel longer than the length of a football field during that 5 seconds**
- Even dialing a phone number increases the risk of crashing by **3** times

