

# RI STATE LAW



## NO HAND HELD DEVICE

**Rhode Island is about to go hands-free when it comes to drivers and cell phones. A new law will prohibit any driver use of hand-held wireless communication devices.**

**What is not allowed:** Driver will not be able to hold a cell phone or other wireless device while operating a vehicle. The use of headphones or other accessories that cover both ears also is not allowed.

**What is allowed:** Drivers will be able to use in-car or other hands-free systems or accessories, commonly using a wireless technology called Bluetooth.

**How does it work:** If a police officer observes you holding a phone and talking or texting while driving, you will be pulled over and may be fined up to \$100. The offense may be waived for first offenders only by showing proof of purchase of a hands-free device.

**Why:** Distracted driving caused by use of personal electronic devices is a growing problem, leading to needless deaths and serious injuries.

**When:** The law took effect on Friday, June 1, 2018.



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