

JOSEPH F. MARKOSEK, MEMBER
CHAIRMAN, APPROPRIATIONS (D)

MIRIAM A. FOX
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

512E MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2025
PHONE: (717) 783-1540
FAX: (717) 787-2334

COMMERCE BUILDING, SUITE 303
4232 NORTHERN PIKE
MONROEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 15146
PHONE: (412) 856-8284
FAX: (412) 374-9242

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Rep. Joseph F. Markosek
Rep. Eugene DePasquale

DATE: September 18, 2012

SUBJECT: Cosponsorship of Legislation: Expansion of Distracted Driving Prohibition

In the near future, we will be reintroducing legislation which would expand our current law against distracted driving to include a ban on the use of handheld devices while driving (hands-free use permitted) for drivers. Teens and novice drivers would be prohibited from using all handheld and hands-free devices while driving. Exceptions to the prohibitions would include the use of a GPS system, when the vehicle is stopped due to a traffic obstruction and when initiating a phone call. Additionally, this legislation would require PennDOT to develop a public education campaign to warn of the danger of distracted driving.

Our current ban on texting while driving is a step in the right direction, but it fails to address the entire issue and law enforcement agencies report that it is difficult to enforce. Nearly 60 people were killed on PA roads last year in more than 14,000 distracted driving crashes, according to PennDOT.

This legislation, combined with the previously passed texting ban, is very similar to HB 2070 of the 2009-10 Session. Bi-partisan cosponsors of that legislation were: MARKOSEK, GEIST, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, P. COSTA, DePASQUALE, D. EVANS, J. EVANS, GINGRICH, GROVE, HARHAI, HARPER, LENTZ, MARSICO, MILLER, PICKETT, PYLE, REICHLEY, SHAPIRO, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, SWANGER, WATSON, KORTZ, HELM, BENNINGHOFF, SAMUELSON, FAIRCHILD, DALLY, WATERS, M. SMITH, MUNDY, BRENNAN, HORNAMAN, FREEMAN, DEASY, BOBACK, KULA, BRIGGS, MARSHALL, BEAR, VULAKOVICH, SANTARSIERO, BRADFORD, GALLOWAY and CHRISTIANA.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Christa Vinson in Rep. Markosek's office at cvinson@hacd.net or 717-783-1540.