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No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

Yes

"Cell phones banned for school bus drivers," 12-13-2002 Burlington County Times, p.B2

P.L. 2002, CHAPTER 120, *approved December 12, 2002*
Assembly, No. 445 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the use of wireless telephones and supplementing
2 chapter 3B of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. It shall be unlawful for the driver of a school bus, as defined
8 in R.S.39:1-1, to use a cellular or other wireless telephone while
9 operating the school bus.

10 b. The prohibition contained in subsection a. of this section shall
11 not apply:

12 ¹[(1) if there are no passengers on the school bus;

13 (2)] (1)¹ when the school bus is parked in a safe area off of a
14 highway; or

15 ¹[(3)] (2)¹ in an emergency situation.

16 c. A person who violates this section shall be fined not less than
17 ²[\$100] \$250² or more than ²[\$250] \$500.

18 d. No motor vehicle points or automobile insurance eligibility
19 points pursuant to section 26 of P.L.1990, c.8 (C.17:33B-14) shall be
20 assessed for this offense².

21

22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

23

24

25

26

27 Prohibits use of cell phone while driving school bus.

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted June 17, 2002.

² Senate SLP committee amendments adopted October 17, 2002.

ASSEMBLY, No. 445

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2002 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROBERT J. SMITH

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman DOUGLAS H. FISHER

District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

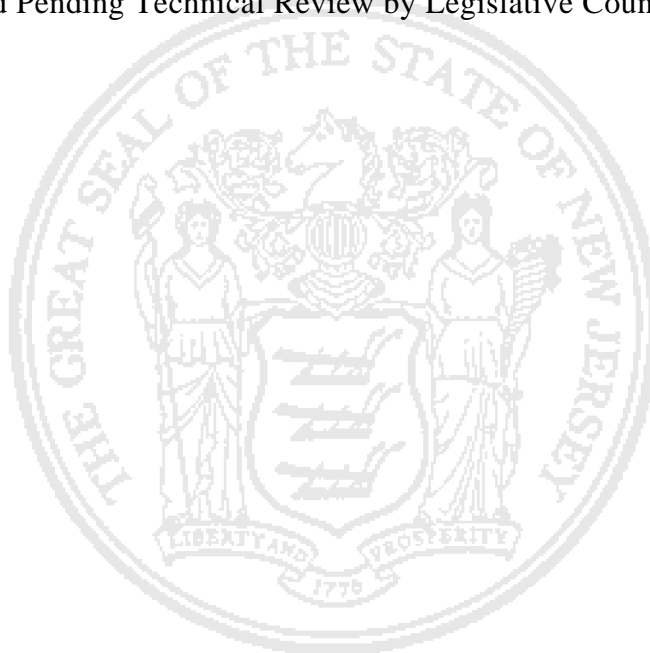
Assemblymen Geist, McKeon and Burzichelli

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits use of cell phone while driving school bus.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/26/2002)

1 AN ACT concerning the use of wireless telephones and supplementing
2 chapter 3B of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. It shall be unlawful for the driver of a school bus, as defined
8 in R.S.39:1-1, to use a cellular or other wireless telephone while
9 operating the school bus.

10 b. The prohibition contained in subsection a. of this section shall
11 not apply:

12 (1) if there are no passengers on the school bus;

13 (2) when the school bus is parked in a safe area off of a highway;

14 or

15 (3) in an emergency situation.

16 c. A person who violates this section shall be fined not less than
17 \$100 or more than \$250.

18

19 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

20

21

22 STATEMENT

23

24 This bill would prohibit the use of cellular telephones by school bus
25 drivers when they are operating a school bus.

26 Research indicates that cell phones contribute to driver inattention
27 and may increase the incidence of accidents. The use of these phones
28 by school bus drivers, who already are subject to a higher degree of
29 distraction than most drivers, poses an unnecessary risk.

30 The bill would permit school bus drivers to use cell phones if there
31 are no passengers on the school bus, when the bus is parked in a safe
32 area off the highway and in emergency situations.

33 A school bus driver who violates the provisions of this bill would
34 be fined not less than \$100 or more than \$250.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 445

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 17, 2002

The Assembly Transportation Committee reports favorably and with amendments Assembly Bill No. 445.

This amended bill would prohibit the use of cellular telephones by school bus drivers when they are operating a school bus.

Research indicates that cell phones contribute to driver inattention and may increase the incidence of accidents. The use of these phones by school bus drivers, who already are subject to a higher degree of distraction than most drivers, poses an unnecessary risk.

The bill would permit school bus drivers to use cell phones when the bus is parked in a safe area off the highway or in emergency situations.

A school bus driver who violates the provisions of this bill would be fined not less than \$100 or more than \$250.

The committee amendments remove from the bill permission for school bus drivers to use a cell phone if there are no passengers on the school bus.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2002 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS'
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 445

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 17, 2002

The Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 445 (1R).

This bill prohibits the use of cellular telephones by school bus drivers when they are operating a school bus. The bill permits school bus drivers to use cell phones when the bus is parked in a safe area off the highway or in emergency situations.

Under the amended bill, a school bus driver who violates the provisions of this bill would be fined not less than \$250 or more than \$500. As introduced, the bill provided that a violator would be fined \$100 to \$250. The committee amendments also provide that no motor vehicle or automobile insurance eligibility points would be assessed for this offense.

Research indicates that cell phones contribute to driver inattention and may increase the incidence of accidents. The use of these phones by school bus drivers, who already are subject to a higher degree of distraction than most drivers, poses an unnecessary risk.

As amended and released by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1251, which also was amended and released by the committee on this same date.

SENATE, No. 1251

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2002

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

Senator JOHN A. GIRGENTI

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Coniglio

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits use of cell phone while driving school bus.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2002)

1 AN ACT concerning the use of wireless telephones and supplementing
2 chapter 3B of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. a. It shall be unlawful for the driver of a school bus, as defined
8 in R.S.39:1-1, to use a cellular or other wireless telephone while
9 operating the school bus.

10 b. The prohibition contained in subsection a. of this section shall
11 not apply:

12 (1) if there are no passengers on the school bus;

13 (2) when the school bus is parked in a safe area off of a highway;

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15 (3) in an emergency situation.

16 c. A person who violates this section shall be fined not less than
17 \$100 or more than \$250.

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19 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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24 This bill would prohibit the use of cellular telephones by school bus
25 drivers when they are operating a school bus.

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27 and may increase the incidence of accidents. The use of these phones
28 by school bus drivers, who already are subject to a higher degree of
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30 The bill would permit school bus drivers to use cell phones if there
31 are no passengers on the school bus, when the bus is parked in a safe
32 area off the highway and in emergency situations.

33 A school bus driver who violates the provisions of this bill would
34 be fined not less than \$100 or more than \$250.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS'
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1251

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 17, 2002

The Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1251.

This bill prohibits the use of cellular telephones by school bus drivers when they are operating a school bus. The bill would permit school bus drivers to use cell phones when the bus is parked in a safe area off the highway and in emergency situations.

Under the amended bill, a school bus driver who violates the provisions of this bill would be fined not less than \$250 or more than \$500. As introduced, a violator would have been fined \$100 to \$250. The committee amendments further provide that no motor vehicle or automobile insurance eligibility points would be assessed for this offense. Other amendments remove a provision providing that the driver may use the cell phone if there are no passengers on the school bus.

Research indicates that cell phones contribute to driver inattention and may increase the incidence of accidents. The use of these phones by school bus drivers, who already are subject to a higher degree of distraction than most drivers, poses an unnecessary risk.

As amended and released by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 445 (1R), which also was amended and released by the committee on this same date.