

Senate Study Bill 3191 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON BOWMAN)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing texting while driving as a primary traffic
2 offense for purposes of law enforcement.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.276, subsection 5, Code 2014, is
2 amended by striking the subsection.

3 EXPLANATION

4 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
5 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

6 Current law prohibits a person from using a hand-held
7 electronic communication device to write, read, or send a
8 text message while driving a motor vehicle. A violation is
9 punishable by a scheduled fine of \$30, but it is not considered
10 a moving violation. In addition, the prohibition against
11 texting while driving is only enforceable as a secondary
12 action when the motor vehicle has been stopped for a suspected
13 violation of another law. Under this bill, a peace officer is
14 authorized to stop a person suspected of texting while driving,
15 regardless of whether a violation of another law has occurred.