**South Carolina General Assembly**

119th Session, 2011-2012

**H. 3542**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Rep. Hart

Document Path: l:\council\bills\swb\6019cm11.docx

Introduced in the House on February 2, 2011

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Judiciary**

Summary: Cell phones

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

2/2/2011 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 16](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\02-02-11.docx))

2/2/2011 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 16](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\02-02-11.docx))

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[2/2/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\3542_20110202.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 56‑1‑55 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON TO OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE USING A CELLULAR TELEPHONE, PAGER, PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANT DEVICE, OR ANOTHER WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE THAT IS NOT EQUIPPED WITH A HANDS‑FREE MECHANISM, AND TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS PROVISION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 1, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56‑1‑55. (A) It is unlawful for a person to operate a motor vehicle while using a cellular telephone, pager, personal digital assistant device, or another wireless communications device while the vehicle is in motion.

(B) This section does not apply to a cellular telephone, pager, personal digital assistant device, or another wireless communications device that is equipped with and operated with a hands‑free mechanism.

(C) A person who violates a provision contained in this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than thirty days, or fined not more than five hundred dollars, or both.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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