



Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

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Two New Laws Initiated By Jesse White Will Take Effect January 1

Laws combat distracted driving by banning text messaging while driving and banning cell phone use while driving in school and construction zones

Two new laws targeting distracted driving, initiated this year by Secretary of State Jesse White, will take effect January 1st. Public Act 96-130 bans text messaging while driving. Public Act 96-131 bans cell phone use while driving in school and construction zones.

“With the increased use of technological devices, distracted driving has become a serious problem in our state and in the nation,” said White. “These laws are important and will make our roads safer. No driver has any business text messaging while they are driving. Additionally, school zones and construction zones require drivers to slow down and pay special attention to their surroundings.”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that at least 25 percent of police-reported crashes involve some form of driver inattention.

The penalty for violating either of these measures results in a moving violation that will go on the motorist’s driving record as well as accompanying fines and court costs to be determined by the judge.

The legislation is based on recommendations made by the state’s Distracted Driving Task Force, which was chaired by White. The task force, created by Joint House Resolution 22, met three times last year to discuss and examine ways to reduce fatalities and injuries cause by distracted driving.

Distraction occurs when a driver is delayed in recognizing information needed to drive safely because something within or outside the vehicle draws his or her attention away from driving.

“I want to thank Governor Quinn and the General Assembly for their assistance in addressing these important traffic safety issues,” said White.

The legislation was sponsored in the House by State Representatives John D’Amico (D-Chicago) and Bill Black (R-Danville) and in the Senate by Senators Martin Sandoval (D-Cicero) and Pamela Althoff (R-Crystal Lake).

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