

2023 RS BR 22 Distracted Driving

2023 RS BR 22 expands Kentucky's current distracted driving law to keep pace with technology and the broadened range of electronic communication platforms available that include apps, cameras, social media, and gaming.

Section 1:

- Expands the term "personal communication device" to include computer, tablets, laptops, telephones, or any substantially similar wireless device that is used to initiate or receive communication, information, or data.
- Defines a "stand-alone electronic device" as a portable device other than a personal communication device that stores audio or video data files to be retrieved on demand by a user.
- Defines "operating a motor vehicle" to include when the motor vehicle is temporarily stationary because of traffic, but does not include circumstances when the vehicle has pulled over to the side of the roadway.
- Prohibits the hand held use of a device and the use of an electronic device to stream, record, or broadcast video.
- Allows the pressing of a single button to activate, deactivate, or initiate a feature or function of a device.
- Allows the use by voice-based communication, of a global positioning or navigation system.
- Allows the use of a personal communication device to automatically convert a voice-based communication to be sent as a message in written form.
- Allows the use of personal communication devices for emergency purposes.

Section 2:

- Provides that persons under 18 years old shall not use a personal communication device or stand-alone electronic device in any manner except for emergency purposes.

Section 3:

- A courtesy warning will be issued for violations occurring prior to January 1, 2024. Fines are set at \$50 to \$100 for a first or second offense, \$100 to \$199 for a third or subsequent offense, or if there is an accident, and \$200 to \$250 for violations occurring in work zones or school zones.