

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26629

Many cities have begun to ban handheld cell phone use across the state. One person may drive very responsibly while speaking on a cell phone, while another might be completely careless. This blanket law is not the solution and punishes those that have been responsible. We have a law on the book that addresses inattentive driving, which sufficiently addresses the irresponsible handheld use. Furthermore, this leaves patchwork in state traffic laws, thus making it confusing while driving from city to city in Idaho. Traffic laws need to be consistent statewide.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill would have no direct impact on the state General Fund. By prohibiting municipalities from instituting restrictive hands-free policies, this bill could take away some of the traffic fine revenue from municipalities with restrictive hands-free policies. A first offense in each of the cities with the ordinance in place includes a penalty of \$100. In some cities, subsequent offenses include a fine of \$200.

This bill could also alleviate burdens on the court system, as there could be fewer individuals who contest their citation if this is made into law. Some cities will charge violators with a misdemeanor after multiple infractions, putting an even greater burden on the court system.

Contact:

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).