

# Will 2012 be Alabama's year to ban texting while driving?

On behalf of Johnston, Moore & Thompson

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Distracted driving has become a hot topic of conversation within Alabama and the majority of the U.S. in recent years. Its danger is compared to the dangers of drunk driving, which is why some states already have laws in place to ban certain cell phone uses behind the wheel.

The most common ban among U.S. states related to [distracted driving](#) is against texting while driving. Even though the great majority of states already have a texting ban in place, Alabama is yet to have adopted such a law. But that's not due to at least one lawmaker's lack of trying to prevent car accidents caused by distracted driving.

Sources report that a legislator from Birmingham continues in his goal to outlaw texting while driving throughout all of Alabama. In the past, his proposals have been rejected in the Senate, but he is confident that 2012 will be his bill's lucky year to get through that legal hurdle.

The legislative proposal would make texting while driving a primary offense. That means that a police officer can pull a person over just because he sees the driver texting. The driver doesn't need to have committed another traffic violation. A first offense would cost a driver \$25, and the fine would go up with subsequent violations.

Supporters of distracted driving laws argue that cell phone use behind the wheel results in Alabama car accidents and the avoidable injuries and deaths that follow. Critics of such laws, however, think that law enforcement won't be able to effectively enforce the law without putting drivers' freedoms at risk.

What do you want in your state?

## Source

The Birmingham News: "[Alabama bill to ban texting while driving will return to Legislature](#)," Kim Chandler, Dec. 30, 2011