

HB 450 -- TEXT MESSAGING WHILE DRIVING

SPONSOR: English

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness by a vote of 9 to 0.

Currently, an individual 21 years of age or younger is prohibited from sending, reading, or writing a text message or electronic message from a hand-held electronic wireless communications device while operating a moving motor vehicle on any highway in this state. This bill prohibits anyone, regardless of age, from these activities.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill mirrors Illinois law. Enforcing the provisions of this bill would be similar to distracted driving.

Testifying for the bill were Representative English; Verizon; and Missouri State Medical Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they are supportive based on recommendations from the highway safety division.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Department of Transportation.