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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

From: Adam Siebers, Assistant Revisor

Date: March 7, 2024

Subject: House Bill No. 2499

Summary

House Bill No. 2499 prohibits all drivers from using a mobile telephone while driving a vehicle through a school zone or construction zone. Additionally, drivers younger than 18 years of age would be prohibited from using a mobile telephone when such individual is driving a vehicle.

The bill provides exceptions allowing for the use of mobile devices by: (1) law enforcement acting within the scope of employment; (2) a person operating a motor vehicle that is halted at a location where the vehicle is safely and lawfully stationary; and (3) individuals who use hands-free devices.

Additionally, individuals would be allowed to use a mobile telephone to: (1) Report current or ongoing illegal activity to law enforcement; (2) prevent imminent injury to a person or property; (3) summon medical or other emergency assistance; or (4) relay information between a transit or for-hire operator and the operator's dispatcher, if the device is permanently affixed to the motor vehicle.

Lastly, holding a mobile telephone (when use is restricted under the bill) would constitute prima facie evidence of a violation. The fine for an individual found guilty of violating this section would be \$60. The bill requires law enforcement to give a warning citation to a driver who violates this new provision until July 1, 2025.