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H.239

Introduced by Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington and Smith of
Derby

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; distracted driving

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a
general distracted driving law.

An act relating to distracted driving

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1100 is added to read

§ 1100. PROHIBITION ON DISTRACTED DRIVING

(a) A person shall not engage in any activity not related to the actual
operation of a motor vehicle, such as eating, personal grooming, or interacting
with an animal, in a manner that interferes with the safe operation of such
vehicle in a place open temporarily or permanently to public or general
circulation of vehicles.

(b) A person who violates this section commits a traffic violation as
defined in section 2302 of this title and shall be subject to a civil penalty of not

1 less than \$100.00 and shall have two points assessed against his or her driving
2 record.

3 (c) A person convicted of violating this section while operating within the
4 following areas shall have an additional three points assessed against his or her
5 driving record:

6 (1) a properly designated work zone in which construction,
7 maintenance, or utility personnel are present; or

8 (2) a school zone marked with warning signs conforming to the Manual
9 on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

10 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 2502(a) is amended to read:

11 (a) Unless the assessment of points is waived by a Superior judge or a
12 Judicial Bureau hearing officer in the interests of justice and in accordance
13 with subsection 2501(b) of this title, a person operating a motor vehicle shall
14 have points assessed against his or her driving record for convictions for
15 moving violations of the indicated motor vehicle statutes in accord with the
16 following schedule: (All references are to Title 23 of the Vermont Statutes
17 Annotated.)

18 (1) Two points assessed for:

19 * * *

20 (MM) § 1100. Prohibition on distracted driving outside
21 work or school zone;

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* * *

2

(4) Five points assessed for:

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* * *

4

(E) § 1100.

Prohibition on distracted driving inside

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work or school zone;

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* * *

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Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.