
DIGEST

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HB 844 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Fontenot

Abstract: Defines the term "school zone" for purposes of the prohibition against the use of wireless telecommunications devices while operating a motor vehicle.

Present law (R.S. 32:59) prohibits the operation of a wireless telecommunications device while operating a motor vehicle unless the vehicle is lawfully stationary. Provides enhanced penalties when a violation occurs in a school zone or highway construction zone.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law defines "school zone" as any designated area adjacent to a public or private kindergarten through 12th grade school or postsecondary institution that is properly marked with official school warning or similar traffic control signage, including signage provided in Chapter 7 of the Dept. of Transportation and Development Traffic Engineering Manual relating to schools, and extending not less than 250 feet prior to the beginning of the zone.

Proposed law specifies that a school zone is in effect 60 minutes before school starts, 60 minutes after school starts, 60 minutes before school ends, and 60 minutes after school ends.

Present law provides a definition of "Wireless telecommunications device".

Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 32:59(A)(5); Adds R.S. 32:59(A)(6))