

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **HB 844** HLS 26RS 391

Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> March 31, 2026 12:10 PM	<b>Author:</b> FONTENOT
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Corrections and Sheriffs	<b>Analyst:</b> Daniel Druilhet
<b>Subject:</b> Operating a Motor Vehicle Using Wireless Phone	

MTR VEHICLE/VIOLATIONS EG NO IMPACT See Note Page 1 of 1  
Defines the term "school zone" relative to the operation of a motor vehicle while using a wireless telecommunication device

Current law prohibits the operation of a wireless telecommunications device while operating a motor vehicle unless the vehicle is lawfully stationary; assesses a fine of \$250 for those who operate a wireless telecommunications device while operating a motor vehicle in a school zone (or at the judge's discretion, the fine may be reduced to \$100 with community service not to exceed 15 hours, at least half of which shall consist of a litter abatement program in a school zone or highway construction zone), and for those involved in a crash at the time of the violation, a fine equal to \$500 (or \$200 with the same community service stipulations) and the law enforcement officer investigating the crash shall indicate on the written accident report that the person was using a wireless telecommunications device at the time of the crash. Proposed law defines school zone as any designated area adjacent to a public or private kindergarten through 12th grade school or post-secondary institution that is properly marked with official school warning or similar traffic control signage, including signage provided in Chapter 7 of the DOTD Traffic Engineering Manual relating to schools, and extending not less than 250 feet prior to the beginning of the zone; 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.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental expenditures as a result of this measure.

The proposed law only clarifies the meaning of a term used within the current law and does not add circumstances under which a party may be assessed a fine for committing the current law civil offense.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

  
**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**