

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 844

BY REPRESENTATIVE FONTENOT

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:59(A)(5) and to enact R.S. 32:59(A)(6), relative to the use of  
3 the wireless telecommunications devices while operating a motor vehicle; to provide  
4 for definitions; to establish the boundary and when a school zone is in effect; and to  
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 32:59(A)(5) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 32:59(A)(6)  
8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §59. Use of wireless telecommunications device prohibited; exceptions

10 A. Unless otherwise provided in this Subsection, all terms used in this  
11 Section shall have the same meaning as defined in R.S. 32:1. As used in this  
12 Section, the following terms shall apply:

13 \* \* \*

14 (5) "School zone" means any designated area adjacent to a public or private  
15 kindergarten through twelfth grade school or postsecondary institution, that is  
16 properly marked with official school warning or similar traffic control signage,  
17 including those provided in Chapter 7 of the Department of Transportation and  
18 Development Traffic Engineering Manual relating to schools, and that extends not  
19 less than two hundred fifty feet prior to the beginning of the school zone. A school  
20 zone shall be in effect sixty minutes before school begins, sixty minutes after school  
21 begins, sixty minutes before school ends, and sixty minutes after school ends.

22 ~~(5)~~ (6) "Wireless telecommunications device" means a cellular telephone,  
23 a text-messaging device, a personal digital assistant, a stand-alone computer or other  
24 electronic device, or any other substantially similar portable wireless device that is  
25 readily removable from the vehicle and is used to write, send, or read text or data  
26 through manual input. The term "wireless telecommunications device" shall not

1 mean any device or component that is permanently affixed to a motor vehicle, or a  
 2 device used hands-free, citizens band radios, citizens band radio hybrids, commercial  
 3 two-way radio communications devices, two-way radio transmitters or receivers used  
 4 by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio  
 5 Service, or electronic communication devices with a push-to-talk function.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_