

SENATE BILL 973

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 8, relative to the use of certain electronic communication devices while operating a motor vehicle.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-207, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and substituting instead the following:

(b)

(1) It is an offense for a person to knowingly operate a motor vehicle on any road or highway in this state and talk on a hand-held mobile telephone while the vehicle is in motion.

(2) It is an offense for a person under eighteen (18) years of age to knowingly operate a motor vehicle on any road or highway in this state and talk on a mobile telephone that is equipped with a hands-free device while the vehicle is in motion.

(3) This section does not prohibit a person eighteen (18) years of age or older from operating a motor vehicle on any road or highway in this state and talking on a mobile telephone that is equipped with a hands-free device while the vehicle is in motion.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-207, is amended by deleting subsection (d) and substituting instead the following:

(d) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor punishable only by a fine not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00).

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it.