



HOUSE BILL 144: Hands Free NC.

**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

2019-2020 General Assembly

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| Committee: | House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House | Date: | May 6, 2019 |
| Introduced by: | Reps. Corbin, Torbett, Hardister, Pierce | Prepared by: | Wendy Ray |
| Analysis of: | Third Edition | | Staff Attorney |

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 144 would create a new offense of distracted driving for operating a vehicle on a public street or highway, or public vehicular area while engaging in distracted behavior.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would provide that this act is known as "The Hands Free NC Act."

Section 2 would create a new offense of "distracted driving" which would prohibit operating a vehicle on a public street or highway or public vehicular area while using the person's hands to engage in distracted behavior that impairs or otherwise restricts the proper operation of the vehicle and results in operation that is not reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing. Distracted behavior would include the use of hand held mobile telephones and electronic devices.

Violation of the offense would be an infraction punishable by a fine of \$100 and costs of court. No insurance surcharge would be assessed as a result of violation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective December 1, 2019, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date. For the six months immediately after the effective date of this act, law enforcement would only issue warning tickets for offenses committed.

Susan Sitze, counsel to House Judiciary, substantially contributed to this summary.

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