



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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**DATE:** April 16, 2007  
**TO:** House Transportation Committee  
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**SUBJECT:** House Bill 3189

## INTRODUCTION

House Bill 3189 makes it illegal for anyone under 18 years of age to use a mobile communication device while driving a vehicle unless they are operating an ambulance or emergency vehicle or summoning medical or other emergency help if no other person in the vehicle is able to do so. This creates an additional restriction for a provisional driver license.

## DISCUSSION

In a recent survey of King County, Washington teens, 70% reported using a cell phone while driving and with three-quarters of those students saying that they do so with some frequency. This survey provides a glimpse at what teen cellular phone use rates may be in Oregon.

Oregon's current provisional driver license restrictions have resulted in reductions of fatal and injury crashes where a 16 year old was the driver, dropping from 1,196 in 1998 to 656 in 2005 – over a 45% reduction. A significant component of Oregon's provisional driving restrictions are rules that limit distractions.

Eliminating the additional distraction of a cell phone would provide one more reduction in the overall number of distractions to the teen driver. **For this reason the National Transportation Safety Board has made a restriction such as the one proposed in HB 3189 a recommended policy (H-03-8).**

## SUMMARY

While no definitive statistical proof exists to indicate that a cell phone restriction among provisional drivers will substantially impact the instance and severity of teen driving crashes, the Oregon Department of Transportation believes there is sufficient evidence that implementation of this restriction may result in some level of crash reduction.