

1 AN ACT in relation to vehicles.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by
5 adding Section 12-813.1 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/12-813.1 new)

7 Sec. 12-813.1. Operation of a school bus while using a
8 cellular radio telecommunication device.

9 (a) In this Section:

10 "School bus driver" means a person operating a school bus
11 who has a valid school bus driver permit as required under
12 Sections 6-104 and 6-106.1 of this Code.

13 "Cellular radio telecommunication device" means a device
14 capable of sending or receiving telephone communications
15 without an access line for service and which requires the
16 operator to dial numbers manually. It does not, however,
17 include citizens band radios or citizens band radio hybrids.

18 "Using a cellular radio telecommunication device" means
19 talking or listening to or dialing a cellular radio
20 telecommunication device.

21 To "operate" means to have the vehicle in motion while it
22 contains one or more passengers.

23 (b) A school bus driver may not operate a school bus
24 while using a cellular radio telecommunication device.

25 (c) This Section does not apply:

26 (1) To the use of a cellular radio
27 telecommunication device for the purpose of communicating
28 with any of the following regarding an emergency
29 situation:

30 (A) an emergency response operator;

31 (B) a hospital;

- 1 (C) a physician's office or health clinic;
- 2 (D) an ambulance service;
- 3 (E) a fire department, fire district, or fire
- 4 company; or
- 5 (F) a police department.
- 6 (2) To the use of a cellular radio
- 7 telecommunication device to call for assistance in the
- 8 event that there is a mechanical breakdown or other
- 9 mechanical problem that impairs the safe operation of the
- 10 bus.
- 11 (3) When the school bus is parked in a safe area
- 12 off of a roadway.
- 13 (d) A school bus driver who violates this Section is
- 14 guilty of a petty offense punishable by a fine of not less
- 15 than \$100 and not more than \$250.