



Pennsylvania  
Department of Transportation



Pennsylvania  
State Police



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Insurance Department

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Shapiro Administration Reminds Drivers ‘Paul Miller’s Law’ Effective  
June 5**

*Signed by Governor Shapiro last year, the new hands-free law bans hand-held cell phone use while driving and increases transparency and accountability at traffic stops*

**Harrisburg, PA** – Today, in keeping with **Governor Shapiro's** commitment to safety on Pennsylvania roads, the Shapiro Administration urged drivers to put down the phone while driving, ahead of the June 5 effective date for “Paul Miller’s Law,” which makes it illegal to use a hand-held cell phone while driving. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PA Turnpike), and Pennsylvania Insurance Department (PID) joined Senator Rosemary Brown and national advocate Eileen Miller to urge drivers to make safe choices behind the wheel.

As part of his mission to provide a safe transportation system for all Pennsylvanians, **Governor Josh Shapiro** signed [Senate Bill 37](#) into law on June 5, 2024. Effective June 5, 2025, the law - known as “Paul Miller's Law” - prohibits the use of hand-held devices while driving, even while stopped temporarily due to traffic, a red light, or other momentary delay. Pennsylvania already enforces a [texting-while-driving ban](#) that prohibits drivers from using mobile devices to send, read, or write text-based communications while their vehicle is in motion. Beginning June 5, 2025, law enforcement will begin issuing written warnings for violations of Senate Bill 37. Law enforcement will have the ability to issue summary citations to violators beginning June 6, 2026.

“Paul Miller’s Law is about saving lives,” said **PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll**. “Your choices behind the wheel can change lives forever. Make the safe choice. Put your phone out of reach and don’t text and drive. One text, one glance down – it could kill someone. And it’s not worth it.”

Under Paul Miller's Law, drivers can still use their phones to alert emergency responders and, if they are using hands-free technology, to make phone calls, use a GPS, and listen to music.

"The Pennsylvania State Police will enforce the new law to its full extent," said **PSP Commissioner Colonel Christopher Paris**. "Distracted driving is not a minor offense. Just one second of inattention can result in irreversible consequences. We urge all drivers to stay focused behind the wheel."

"Distracted driving is a serious issue that undermines PennDOT and the PA Turnpike's collective effort to create safe driving experiences for our travelers," said **PA Turnpike CEO Mark Compton**. "Safety is the driving force of what we do at the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and the Paul Miller Law is a meaningful step towards safer roads for everyone."

"Focusing on the road while driving is one of the best ways to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you," said **Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner Michael Humphreys**. "Safe driving can also help reduce the cost of your insurance as insurers factor your accident and driving history into their ratemaking. We encourage consumers to speak with their insurance provider to learn more about the benefits of safe driving, the discounts they could receive, and how they can start saving today."

"As the Prime-Sponsor of Senate Bill 37, now Act 18 of 2024, seeing this law go into effect is incredibly rewarding knowing it will save lives," said **State Senator Rosemary Brown (R- Lackawanna, Monroe, Wayne)**. "Since day one I have always believed in this commonsense policy. It's important that drivers remember that the cell phone has become the most consistent, repetitive, and lengthy distraction behind the driver's wheel causing significant public safety concerns. This law will change behaviors and save lives. The legislature passed Senate Bill 37, now Act 18, with overwhelming bi-partisan support, and I am confident that my efforts, along with the efforts of my friend Eileen Miller, have Pennsylvania going in the right direction for public safety."

The law is named for Paul Miller, Jr., who was tragically killed in a crash with a tractor trailer in 2010 in Monroe County, as the result of a distracted driver who reached for their phone while driving. Since his death, Paul's mother Eileen Miller has become a national advocate for stronger laws to curb distracted driving.

"Nearly 15 years ago, two Dunmore state troopers knocked on my door to tell me that my son was killed," said **Eileen Miller, Paul Miller, Jr.'s mother**. "My son did everything right – he was killed by someone else's unsafe choices behind the wheel. This law is for every family in Pennsylvania that doesn't have to experience two state troopers knocking on their door to tell them that their loved one was killed by distracted driving. Paul Miller's Law will be a beacon of protection for every driver and passenger in Pennsylvania."

Paul Miller's Law will also work to prevent bias in policing by requiring law enforcement to collect data on drivers pulled over during traffic stops, including race, ethnicity, and gender. The data will be made publicly available in an annual report. This amendment – which the Governor advocated for in conjunction with the Legislative Black Caucus – builds on the Shapiro Administration's work to ensure Pennsylvanians can have the utmost faith in the law enforcement officers serving and protecting them every day.

According to PennDOT data, in 2024 there were 9,950 crashes involving a distracted driver, resulting in more than 6,000 injuries and 49 fatalities. Distracted driving crash data is believed to be underreported due to many drivers' reluctance to admit to being distracted at the time of a crash.

If you are the driver, follow these steps for a safe drive:

- If you are expecting a text message or need to send one that can't wait, pull over and park your car in a safe location before using your device.
- Ask a passenger to be your "designated texter." Allow them access to your phone to respond to calls or messages.
- Do not engage in social media scrolling or messaging while driving.
- Cell phone use is habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Activate your phone's "Do Not Disturb" feature, silence notifications, or put your phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of your vehicle until you arrive at your destination.

Cell phone use is not the only distraction while driving. Anything that takes your attention away from driving, your eyes off the road, or your hands off the wheel is a distraction. Driver behavior is the leading factor in 83% of the crashes that occur annually in Pennsylvania. These behaviors include driving distracted, impaired, or aggressive.

For more information on distracted driving, visit [www.PennDOT.pa.gov/safety](http://www.PennDOT.pa.gov/safety).

PennDOT's [media resources](#) web page offers social media-sized graphics for numerous transportation-related campaigns, including safety topics such as aggressive driving, speeding, distracted driving, and seat belts for organizations, community groups, or others who share safety information with their stakeholders.

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**Editor's Note:** Photos and video from this event will be available at [www.PAcast.com](http://www.PAcast.com).

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