

Driver Safety (Hands-Free Act)

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of all employees who drive company (fleet) vehicles or anytime while driving on official Troup County Government business. Troup County Government adheres to all applicable state motor vehicle regulations relating to driver responsibility.

On May 2, 2018, Governor Deal signed into law HB 673, known as the Hands-Free Georgia Act, effective July 1, 2018. HB 673 prohibits actions which distract a driver while operating a motor vehicle; provides for the proper and safe use of wireless telecommunications devices and stand-alone electronic devices while driving; and prohibits certain actions while operating a commercial motor vehicle.

The following is prohibited:

- A. Supporting communication devices with any portion of your body (*no longer can you hold a phone, tablet, iPod, etc. while the vehicle is moving or have it on your lap*)
- B. Sending or reading texts, emails, snapchats, etc. while holding your device
- C. Watching a video on a screen other than GPS
- D. Recording a video
- E. Holding your phone while stopped at a traffic signal

Permitted:

- A. Speaking or texting with using hands-free technology
- B. Using a GPS system
- C. Holding your phone to report an emergency or hazardous road condition
- D. Emergency personnel using a phone while driving
- E. Holding your phone while legally parked

Simply stated, if you are operating a motor vehicle, you may not hold your phone or other telecommunications/electronic devices. Additionally, it may not touch any part of your body while operating a vehicle (i.e. on your lap, etc.).

Any employee who receives a citation for participating in this activity while operating a Troup County Government fleet vehicle or personal vehicle during Troup County Government business is responsible for paying any associated fees and/or fines. ***Failure to adhere to this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.***