



# DROP IT AND DRIVE

## FACT SHEET

### History

- 2007:** Distracted Drivers Task Force formed to study distracted driving in Illinois, with Secretary of State Jesse White as chairman.
- August 2009:** The bill is signed banning texting while driving. Law goes into effect on January 1, 2010.
- July 2012:** The law is signed banning commercial truck drivers from using hand-held cell phones while behind the wheel. Law takes effect January 1, 2013.
- May 2013:** Illinois House and Senate approve law barring all hand-held cell phone use by all drivers. The law is signed on August 16.
- January 1, 2014:** New law banning hand-held cell phone use takes effect in Illinois.

### The Numbers

#### In Illinois

- More than 7,000 crashes occurred from 2011 through 2015, in which some form of driver distraction involving a cellphone was cited by police. Of those, 42 were fatal.
- Cellphone distractions were a cause of more than 2,000 crashes in Illinois in 2015.

#### Nationally

- Nationally, the number of fatalities as a result of distracted driving increased to more than 3,400 – nearly 9 percent of all traffic deaths in 2015.
- About 1.3 million crashes nationwide – or 23 percent of the annual total – involve drivers using cellphones.

### Alarming Statistics

- Over a quarter of respondents in a 2015 State Farm survey reported being more likely to use their cellphone when driving on an open highway/interstate compared to other types of roads and traffic conditions. (State Farm)
- Surveyed annually, the number of people acknowledging that they access the Internet while driving has more than doubled from 13 percent in 2013 to 29 percent in 2015. (State Farm)
- In 2016, more than 40 percent of drivers of all ages report having read a text message or email while behind the wheel in the last thirty days. (AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety)
- In 2015, nearly two in 10 drivers reported taking pictures with their cellphone while driving, and one in 10 reported recording video — activities that can take drivers' eyes off the road and hands off the wheel. (State Farm)
- Drivers using hand-held cell phones are four times more likely to get into an accident causing injuries. (U.S. Department of Transportation)

