

NEW LAW INCREASES PENALTIES FOR TALKING OR TEXTING ON HAND-HELD DEVICES WHILE DRIVING

Effective Tuesday, July 1, 2014, a new state law increases the fines and other penalties for first, second and subsequent convictions of talking on a hand-held wireless telephone or texting a message with a hand-held wireless electronic communication device while driving.

Prior to July 1, the fine for a violation was \$100. However, effective July 1, the first offense is now \$200-\$400, \$400-\$600 for a second offense and \$600-\$800 for third and subsequent offenses.

The statute is now non-payable and requires a court appearance.