



State Senator Don Huffines - Senate District 16 (Dallas)

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SEN. HUFFINES FILES MOBILE DEVICE PREEMPTION BILL

Senate Bill 15 will help make the rules of the road consistent across Texas

AUSTIN – Today in Austin, Senator Don Huffines (R-Dallas) filed Senate Bill 15 to make the rules of the road more consistent and less confusing by preempting local authorities' regulation or prohibition of the use of a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle. The bill, which will work in conjunction with the statewide ban on texting while driving (House Bill 62 – 85R), is intended to allow for safer alternatives to texting.

Senator Huffines stated, "Across the state of Texas, we're currently micromanaging drivers with a confusing and inconsistent mix of local ordinances. The rules of the road should be consistent across our great state, which is why we must get local regulators' hands off of hands-free ordinances. This is an important step to finish the job we started by banning texting while driving."

According to information compiled by the Texas Department of Transportation, 40 Texas cities have ordinances that prohibit all handheld use of a cell phone. The inconsistent patchwork of ordinances can be confusing to drivers, especially those who frequently drive across our state or between communities in an urban or suburban environment, and those who are visitors to Texas.

Senator Huffines continued, "Drivers may sometimes need a lifeline that they can legally use in an emergency or to communicate with family. That's why we need to stop sending mixed signals to drivers. I look forward to working with Governor Greg Abbott, Representative Craig Goldman, and our colleagues in the Legislature to make it clear that drivers must put the brakes on texting, yet they can still pick up the phone as a safer alternative."

Senate Bill 15 will be considered and debated by legislators in the First Called Special Session of the 85th Texas Legislature. The special session convenes at 10:00am on Tuesday, July 18.

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Senator Don Huffines represents the North half of Dallas County in the Texas Senate. First elected in 2014, he serves as Vice Chairman of the Senate Veteran Affairs & Border Security Committee, and as a member of the Senate Committees on Natural Resources & Economic Development, Education, Intergovernmental Relations, and Administration. Senator Huffines is an advocate for free markets, fewer regulations, and believes in limited government, personal responsibility, and that individuals have the God-given right to pursue their own path.