

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Requesting Referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Close, Dingfelder, Kruse, Roblan, Prozanski
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Mike Schmidt, Counsel
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/12, 2/18, 3/5, 3/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Increases violation class for using mobile communication device for texting while driving from a Class D traffic violation to a Class B traffic violation. Requires signage on all “state highways” alerting drivers to the potential \$1000 fine.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Driving while texting can be worse for a driver’s reaction time than driving under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol content of up to .08 percent by volume.

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Changes the “highways of the state” to “state highways;” would make talking without using a mobile hands-free device a Class D traffic violation, and texting without using a hands-free device a Class B traffic violation.

**BACKGROUND:** Distracted driving is a top cause of traffic accidents in Oregon. A growing reason for drivers getting distracted is the use of mobile communication devices. This bill would raise the traffic violation level to a Class B violation. Previously this violation was punishable by a maximum fine of \$250. This bill increases the maximum fine to \$1000.