

5/24/17

House Bill 2597

Dear Honorable Senators:

I agree that there is major problem with distracted driving. However, this problem is caused by cell phone users not amateur radio operators. I think this problem needs to be put into perspective.

Since World WarTwo using two way radios has not been a major problem. Policemen, firemen, ambulance drivers, truck drivers, cab drivers and amateur radio operators all used their radios without it being considered "distracted driving." They simply reached down, grabbed their microphone, pushed the button on that microphone and talked. As far as I know most of those people still do just that without endangering themselves or others. When operating our vehicles we routinely shift, turn on lights, signal, change the radio station, talk to others, etc. This is not considered "distracted driving."

Our service is effective because of the simplicity of our equipment. We pay for it ourselves and practice extensively to insure that we will be ready for a real emergency. This legislation would require the use of bluetooth connectivity to be hands free. Bluetooth is not available generally in any amateur radio equipment and is rare. This legislation would turn an entire industry upside down and require us to replace all of our equipment. We can't afford it and neither can you.

Yes, there are idiots who insist on texting, dialing, playing games, etc. These distractions are done on cell phones not amateur radio equipment. We amateur radio operators are not part of that group. To quote an old cliché; "Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater."

Sincerely,

Joe Joncas

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**HAM RADIO OWNED BY FCC LICENSED AMATEUR
RADIO OPERATOR, DISTRACTION UNDER HB2597**



**TESLA TOUCHSCREEN INTERFACE, NOT A
DISTRACTION UNDER HB2597**