

MEMO:

TO: ALL COUNTY EMPLOYEES

FROM: Faye Hughes, County Administrator

RE: Hands – Free Georgia Act

DATE: June 18, 2018

On May 2, 2018, Governor Deal signed into law HB 673, known as the Hands-Free Georgia Act, effective July 1, 2018. HB 673 prohibits actions which distract a driver while operating a motor vehicle; provides for the proper and safe use of wireless telecommunications devices and stand-alone electronic devices while driving; and prohibits certain actions while operating a commercial motor vehicle.

The following is prohibited:

- A. Supporting communication devices with any portion of your body (no longer can you hold a phone, tablet, iPod, etc. while the vehicle is moving or have it on your lap
- B. Sending or reading texts, emails, snapchats, etc. while holding your device
- C. Watching a video on a screen other than GPS
- D. Recording a video
- E. Holding your phone while stopped at a traffic signal

Permitted:

- A. Speaking or texting with using hands-free technology
- B. Using a GPS system
- C. Holding your phone to report an emergency or hazardous road condition
- D. Emergency personnel using a phone while driving
- E. Holding your phone while legally parked

Simply put, if you are operating a motor vehicle, you may not hold your phone or other telecommunications/electronic device. Additionally, it may not touch any part of your body while operating a vehicle (i.e. on your lap, etc.).

The purpose of this memo is to ensure the safety of all employees who drive company (fleet) vehicles or anytime while driving on official Cook County Government business. Cook County Government adheres to all applicable state motor vehicle regulations relating to driver responsibility. Any employee who receives a citation for partaking in this activity while operating a Cook County Government fleet vehicle or personal vehicle during Cook County Government business is responsible for paying any associated fees and/or fines.

Failure to adhere to this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Please sign and acknowledge that you have read and understood this policy and return to Vicki Parrish, County Clerk no later than June 25, 2018.

Employee signature

Date

Request for Board of Commissioners' Action

From: Faye Hughes, County Administrator **Date:** June 14, 2018

Subject: Hands Free Notification **Item Number:** VIII-G

On May 2, 2018, Governor Deal signed into law HB 673, known as the Hands-Free Georgia Act, effective July 1, 2018. HB 673 prohibits actions which distract a driver while operating a motor vehicle; provides for the proper and safe use of wireless telecommunications devices and stand-alone electronic devices while driving; and prohibits certain actions while operating a commercial motor vehicle.

I have prepared a memo for each County employee. I would appreciate the support from the Board notifying each employee of the consequences of disobeying this new law and the actions the County will take should there be a violation by a County employee.

Chair needs a motion authorizing County Administrator to notify employees through said memo of the consequences should HB 673 be violated by a county employee in a county vehicle, or while performing business of Cook County.

Motion made by _____

Second made by _____

Any discussion: _____

Votes _____ yes _____ no

Motion carried/ failed