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(S.D.)-State Senate Panel Approves Statewide Texting Ban



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/05/2014 01:02 PM

PIERRE, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - A South Dakota Senate committee has approved a proposed statewide ban on texting while driving.

The measure, passed earlier by the House, would make it a petty offense carrying a \$25 fine to drive while using a hand-held device to write, send or read text messages. But drivers could still use cellphones to talk and could text using voice-operated or hands-free technology.

The bill would allow law enforcement officers to issue tickets for texting while driving only after stopping drivers for some other traffic violation. In addition, it would prohibit local governments from having texting bans that differ from state law.

A different texting ban passed by the Senate faces a hearing Thursday in a House committee.

Lawmakers eventually will seek to pass just one version.