

SENATE

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

THANK YOU,

BOBBY



Colorado State Patrol HB 1094 Cell Phone Fact Sheet

Background:

The mission of the Colorado State Patrol is to provide a safe and secure environment for the motoring public of Colorado. Common sense would dictate that drivers pay attention to the safe operation of their motor vehicle while using their cell phone. Unfortunately the statistics speak otherwise, as we are observing more drivers distracted behind the wheel. We think HB 09-1094 is an added tool for law enforcement to address this increasing problem of distracted drivers.

Statistics:

	Fatal	Injury	Property Damage
2007 <small>CELL PHONE USE COULD HAVE BEEN A CAUSE</small>	2	33	229
Total Accidents	311	4,252	23,704
2008 <small>CELL PHONE USE COULD HAVE BEEN A CAUSE</small>	5	41	234
Total Accidents	272	3,857	22,766

Rationale:

When looking at cell phone use we observe four factors that lead to distraction.

Visual: The act of taking your eyes off the road. This becomes dangerous when the vehicle is in motion because the driver is covering large portions of the roadway inattentively. The hands free device reduces the driver's split attention, ideally leading to a more attentive driver.

Biomechanical: When physically manipulating the cell phone the driver is distracted and the act prolongs response to hazards in the roadway. Under high stress situations the fine motor skills deteriorate leaving only gross motor skills. By reducing the physical manipulation of the cell phone this distraction is minimized.

Auditory: When have been trained in current society to answer the phone as soon as it rings. In fact in this hyper-kinetic environment we cannot help ourselves. What happens if the phone is in a bag, purse, or your pocket? Answer: you search frantically to find the phone to see if the call is important. This leads to another opportunity for inattentive driving. The hands free device aids in amelioration of this concern.

Cognitive: This is the mental distraction of the phone conversation. Have you ever driven from point A to B and do not remember how you got there? This cognitive distraction is the only element of distraction that the bill does not address.