



# **Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters**

## **Strength in Numbers 95,000**

# **LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT**

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# **IT'S NOW THE LAW**

## **Pennsylvania Bans the Use of Hand-Held Devices While Driving**

Governor Shapiro Signed into law on June 5, 2024 the “Paul Miller’s Law,” Banning the Use of Hand-Held Devices While Driving and Increasing Transparency and Accountability at Traffic Stops Senate Bill 37, known as Paul Miller’s Law.

The law is named after Paul Miller who was tragically killed in a tractor-trailer collision by a distracted driver in 2010. June 5, 2024.

Paul Miller’s Law prohibits the use of hand-held devices while driving. This bipartisan legislation makes Pennsylvania the 29th state in the nation to ban distracted driving. Paul Miller’s Law allows law enforcement to issue a ticket when a driver uses a cell phone while driving. Drivers can still use their phones to alert emergency responders and to make phone calls, use a GPS, and listen to music, if they are using hands-free technology.

In 2023, distracted driving was the leading cause of car crashes in Pennsylvania with traffic deaths rising by 2.25% compared to 2022, according to PennDOT’s annual crash information report. The report showed 1,209 deaths in motor vehicle crashes, up from 1,179 in the prior year. There were more than 11,262 distracted driving crashes in 2023, compared to 8,330 alcohol-related crashes.

“In 2023, there were over 11 thousand crashes in Pennsylvania that involved a distracted driver,” said PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll. “Driving requires 100% of your attention 100% of the time, and this bill – which I was proud to support as Minority Chair of the House Transportation Committee – is an important step forward in discouraging distracted driving and keeping everyone safe on the road. Congratulations to Senator Brown for her tireless efforts in support of this bill, and thanks to Eileen Miller for her years-long advocacy for this cause.”