



Senate Press Office

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Georgia Senate Passes Hands-Free Communication Bill

ATLANTA (Jan. 28, 2010) – Today, the Georgia Senate passed Sen. Bill Heath's (R- Bremen) legislation allowing the use of hands-free communication devices while driving a vehicle (SB 306). The legislation clarifies current law which currently prohibits the use of headphones.. The bill passed without opposition.

"Drivers who want to be safe on the road and use hands-free devices should not be penalized using good judgment," said Sen. Heath. "With this clarification, citizens can safely talk on the phone while operating their vehicle."

The legislation allows for safe hands- free communication devices as long as devices are not in both ears. The bill states that it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle while wearing a headset or headphone that would impair one's ability to hear and/or see.

The current law was enacted before the creation of cell phones, blackberries and Bluetooth devices. Heath wants the law modernized. Recently, one of Heath's constituents was pulled over and given a ticket for safely using a hands-free device, driving with both hands on the wheel..

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Sen. Bill Heath serves as Chairman of the Retirement Committee and Governor Sonny Perdue's Floor Leader in the Senate. He represents the 31st Senate District which consists of Haralson and Polk counties and portions of Bartow and Paulding counties. He may be reached at 404.651.7738 or by email at billheath@billheath.net.