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## 5 Facts About Florida's New "Texting Law"

It's called the [Wireless Communications While Driving Law](#), but some are calling it the Texting Law. Here's what you need to know about it.

1. It makes it a primary offense to use your phone in any capacity while driving (including calls or holding your device).
2. It took effect July 1, but officers will be issuing warning citations until January 1 as a grace period.
3. The citation amount varies per county.
4. The term "wireless communications device" means any handheld device "designed or intended to receive or transmit text or character-based messages, access or store data, or connect to the Internet or any communications service."
5. Exceptions to the law include "vehicles that are stationary or a driver who is:
  - Performing official duties, such as operating an emergency vehicle (i.e., law enforcement, fire service professionals, and emergency medical service providers).
  - Reporting an emergency, a crime or other suspicious activity to law enforcement.
  - Receiving messages that are:
    - a. related to the operation and/or navigation of the motor vehicle; b. safety-related information (emergency, traffic, and weather alerts); c. data used primarily by the motor vehicle; or d. radio broadcasts.
  - Using the device in a hands-free manner for navigation purposes.
  - Using the device in a way that does not require manual entry of characters, except to initiate a function or feature."



## New Florida Law Hopes to Lure Self-Driving Car Companies

Once completely autonomous vehicles (with no humans on board) are ready to roll out, they will be able to get onto Florida's roads, according to a new law that took effect July 1. Self-driving cars without human operators are still very much in the testing stage, but Gov. Ron DeSantis said he hopes the new law will "lure companies that test and build cars."

[According to the new law](#), as long as the autonomous vehicles meet the safety and insurance requirements, they will be allowed on all of the state's roads. The law also requires that the owner of a self-driving car have a minimum of

\$1 million in insurance coverage.

“With this bill, Florida officially has an open-door policy to autonomous vehicle companies and I encourage them to relocate from California to Florida,” said DeSantis. For several years in California, companies have been testing self-driving cars on public roads with safety drivers as backup. “This helps chart a course to a bolder, brighter and smarter future in transportation, and embraces the innovation revolution that will bring high-paying jobs to the state while making our roads safer.”

## Think You Can Still Pass a Basic Driver’s Test?

For many of us, it’s been a while since we took a driving exam, and some of the rules may have faded from our memory. In fact, some rules may have changed since you were cramming for the test. See how much you can remember by answering 10 common questions, and find out the answers by [clicking here!](#) (Don’t worry, there’s no consequence for getting these wrong.)



## Fun Fact: Alien Abduction Insurance Has Been Available Since 1987

For just \$19.95, alien abduction insurance, or UFO insurance, can protect you in the event that you’re abducted by extraterrestrials. The St. Lawrence Agency, which is based in Florida and also goes by the “UFO Abduction Insurance Company,” sells a \$10,000,000 alien abduction policy, invented by Mike St. Lawrence. He says he has sold 6,000 plans since the company launched in 1987.

St. Lawrence has a word of advice, though. “If you purchase a policy,” he says, “make sure to have a sense of humor.” That may be because the \$10,000 coverage pays out \$1 per year for 10 million years. [Read more here!](#)

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