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**Transportation Committee**

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**HB 1214**

**Brief Description:** Regarding the use of electronic wireless communications devices for text messaging while operating a moving motor vehicle.

**Sponsors:** Representatives McDonald and Morrell.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Prohibits, with limited exceptions, reading, manually writing, or sending a message on an electronic wireless communications devices while operating a motor vehicle.

**Hearing Date:** 2/15/07

**Staff:** David Munnecke (786-7315).

**Background:**

Current law does not explicitly address text-messaging or emailing while driving. Under current law, when Washington State Patrol officers observe dangerous driving behavior by a motor vehicle operator using an electronic device, they may cite the driver for second-degree negligent driving.

**Summary of Bill:**

Any person operating a moving motor vehicle while reading, manually writing, or sending a message on an electronic wireless communications device is guilty of a traffic infraction unless the person is:

- operating an authorized emergency vehicle; or
- using a hand-held wireless communications device to report illegal activity, summon medical or emergency assistance, or prevent injury to a person or property.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect January 1, 2008.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*