

## HR 3994

Distracted Driving Prevention Act of 2009

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Transportation and Public Works

**Introduced:** Nov 3, 2009

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. (Nov 4, 2009)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/3994>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-17]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Schmidt, Jean [R-OH-2]	R · OH		Nov 3, 2009
Rep. Cao, Anh "Joseph" [R-LA-2]	R · LA		Jan 12, 2010
Rep. Richardson, Laura [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Jan 12, 2010
Rep. Markey, Betsy [D-CO-4]	D · CO		Jan 29, 2010
Rep. Castle, Michael N. [R-DE-At Large]	R · DE		Jun 29, 2010
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-19]	D · FL		Jun 29, 2010

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 4, 2009
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 4, 2009
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 4, 2009

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 S 1938	Identical bill	Nov 30, 2010: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 656.

Distracted Driving Prevention Act of 2009 - Directs the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to states that enact laws that prohibit, with certain exceptions, and establish fines for texting and/or handheld cellphone use while driving.

Requires a state that receives a grant to allocate: (1) at least 50% to educate and advertise to the public about the dangers of texting or using a cellphone while driving as well as enforce the distracted driving law; and (2) up to 50% for other traffic safety improvement projects.

Directs the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to administer a distracted driving national education program with at least two high-visibility education and advertising campaigns.

Requires the Secretary to establish a research program to study distracted driving by passenger and commercial vehicle drivers.

Directs the the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to report to Congress on existing and developing wireless communications technology that may be used to reduce problems associated with distracted driving.

Requires the Secretary to: (1) prescribe regulations on the use of electronic or wireless devices, including cell phones and other distracting devices, by operators of commercial motor vehicles and school buses; and (2) prohibit their use in circumstances where it interferes with the driver's safe operation of the vehicles.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Nov 4, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection.
- **Nov 4, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet.
- **Nov 4, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.
- **Nov 3, 2009:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 3, 2009:** Referred to House Transportation and Infrastructure
- **Nov 3, 2009:** Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Nov 3, 2009:** Referred to House Energy and Commerce

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