



## ***BILL SUMMARY***

---

---

# **Texting as Primary Offense SF 234**

Status of Bill: House Calendar  
Committee: Transportation (21-0)  
Lead Democrats: Rep Olson  
Floor Manager: Rep Worthan  
Research Analyst: Brian Guillaume 515-281-5159  
[brian.guillaume@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:brian.guillaume@legis.iowa.gov)

April 4, 2017

---

---

### **Background**

According to NCSL, 14 states and DC ban hand held use of cell phones. Currently, Iowa with 4 other states, treat texting and driving as a secondary offense, 39 states treat texting and driving as primary offense.

### **Summary**

This legislation does not require that a driver of a motor vehicle use a cell phone in hands free as similar legislation that has passed through committee did, but simply makes texting while driving a primary offense.

Under this legislation a driver would still be allowed to talk on the phone and dial a phone number, but would not be allowed to view, send, or write a text message while driving. This includes viewing images on the internet or social media site.

SF 234 will maintain current exceptions in code that include:

- A member of a public safety agency, performing official duties.
- A health care professional in the course of an emergency situation.
- A person receiving safety-related information including emergency, traffic, or weather alerts.

This does not allow a peace officer to confiscate a phone.

A violation of this provision is a scheduled fine of \$30.