

Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 5, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Transportation to which was referred HB 424,

AN ACT establishing a commission to study ways to reduce texting while driving. Having considered the same, report the same with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Travis O'Hara

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Committee: | Transportation |
| Bill Number: | HB 424 |
| Title: | establishing a commission to study ways to reduce texting while driving. |
| Date: | February 5, 2021 |
| Consent Calendar: | CONSENT |
| Recommendation: | OUGHT TO PASS |

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill allows us to set up a commission to study how to reduce texting and driving. This is a danger to our citizens and should be addressed in a better way than it currently is being handled.

Vote 19-0.

Rep. Travis O'Hara
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Transportation

HB 424, establishing a commission to study ways to reduce texting while driving. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Travis O'Hara for Transportation. This bill allows us to set up a commission to study how to reduce texting and driving; this is a danger to our citizens and should be addressed in a better way than it currently is being handled. **Vote 19-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Voting Sheets

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/22/2021 10:08:26 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report



2021 SESSION

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Bill #: HB-424 Motion: OTP AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 2/5/21

| <u>Members</u> | <u>YEAS</u> | <u>Nays</u> | <u>NV</u> |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Walsh, Thomas C. Chairman | X | | |
| Gagne, Larry G. Vice Chairman | X | | |
| Crawford, Karel A. Clerk | X | | |
| Smith, Steven D. | X | | |
| Hill, Gregory G. | X | | |
| Aron, Judy F. | X | | |
| Ankarberg, Aidan | X | | |
| Gorski, Ted | X | | |
| O'Hara, Travis J. | X | | |
| Pitaro, Matthew | X | | |
| Sykes, George E. | X | | |
| Cleaver, Skip J. | X | | |
| Fenton, Donovan W. Rep. Pimentel | X | | |
| Pickering, Daniel R. | X | | |
| Rich, Cecilia | X | | |
| Telerski, Laura D. | X | | |
| Fox, Dru | X | | |
| Stevens, Deb | X | | |
| Veilleux, Daniel T. | X | | |
| TOTAL VOTE: | 19 | 0 | |

Public Hearing

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON

BILL TITLE: 424 establishing a commission to study ways to reduce texting while driving

DATE: 1/29/21

LOB ROOM: 301-303

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 2:38 pm

Time Adjourned: 2:53 pm

Committee Members: Reps. Walsh, Gagne, Crawford, **Smith**, Hill, Aron, Ankarberg, Gorski, O'Hara, Pitaro, Sykes, Cleaver, Fenton, Pickering, Rich, Telerski, Fox, Stevens and Veilleux

Bill Sponsors:
Rep. Torosiaon

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Torosiaon: It is an ongoing problem need more technology to use to disable your device, Would like to get

Rep. Aron: Why do we need a commission couldn't we be able to have public education, agencies get together. A. Torosiaon – commission would make it serious but I am open to any way to solve the problem of texting.

*Dan Goodman AAA – support of this bill sent written testimony and speaking from it.

Q - Rep. Pitaro – Can you tell us any other examples of other states are doing?

A. Dan Goodman – NH does a great job with education, will look into other states

Rep. Telersk – looking at who would be added and hoping for more experience organizations to join Dan Goodman AAA would be happy to join that commission.

Q - Rep. Hill: Do you know if Insurance Co do not pay a claim when the accident occurred due to texting?

A - AAA not aware about that.

Note: Committee members in large font are not present

House Remote Testify

Transportation Committee Testify List for Bill HB424 on 2021-01-29

Support: 7 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 1 Total to Testify: 2

Export to Excel

| <u>Name</u> | City, State <u>Email Address</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Testifying</u> | <u>Non-Germane</u> | <u>Signed Up</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Goodman, Dan | goodman.daniel@mne.aaa.com | A Lobbyist | AAA | Support | Yes (0m) | No | 1/28/2021 3:46 PM |
| Torosian, Peter | FlyBirdAir@aol.com | An Elected Official | Rockingham County District #14 | Support | Yes (0m) | No | 1/29/2021 10:40 AM |
| Bennett, Dan | dbennett@nhada.com | A Lobbyist | New Hampshire Automobile Dealers Association | Support | No | No | 1/29/2021 11:06 AM |
| Janigian, John | John.Janigian@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/29/2021 1:50 PM |
| Shute, Brittany | brittany.shute@dos.nh.gov | State Agency Staff | Myself | Neutral | No | No | 1/29/2021 2:26 PM |
| Rathbun, Eric | ericrathbun@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/29/2021 12:36 AM |
| Gould, REp. Linda | lgouldr@myfairpoint.net | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/25/2021 6:39 PM |
| Weston, Maura | mauraweston@comcast.net | A Lobbyist | AT&T | Support | No | No | 1/28/2021 11:42 AM |

Testimony

01/28/2021

House Transportation Committee
LOB Room 203
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Members of the House Transportation Committee,

More than a decade ago, as part of our ongoing commitment to driver safety, AT&T launched, [*It Can Wait*](#), a public awareness campaign dedicated to raising the awareness of all drivers, especially teens, about the risks of texting while driving. Our message was simple: *When it comes to texting and driving, no text is worth a life, It Can Wait.*

As smartphone driving distractions have grown beyond texting to social media, internet surfing, selfies, and video chatting, our Campaign has also evolved. Now, *It Can Wait* works to reduce distracted driving by educating all drivers about the dangers of smartphone use behind the wheel. The campaign is part of AT&T's commitment to digital safety – and one way we are working to help our customers make safe and positive connections on every screen.

As part of this work, AT&T supports HB 424, “establishing a commission to study ways to reduce texting while driving,” and hopes the House passes this legislation.

In addition to the ongoing *It Can Wait* campaign; AT&T is part of New Hampshire's Distracted Driving Taskforce; we have hosted numerous Virtual Reality Goggle presentations about safe driving; and worked with the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock and its Injury Prevention Center. Our efforts are aimed at ending distracted driving and educating the public on the dangers of using cellphones while operating a motor vehicle.

We know that distracted driving is a critical public safety issue. AT&T research shows that nearly 9-in-10 people admit to using their smartphone while driving. And these distractions have grown beyond texting to social media, web surfing, snapping photos, and video chatting. Nearly 64% of drivers take or view photos, 60% email, and 47% surf the net while driving.

If the House does pass the legislation and establishes the commission to study a way to reduce texting and driving, AT&T would be honored to bring our years of experience spreading our *It Can Wait* message to the commission as a member.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at Ryan.Clark@att.com or 603-417-8803. We look forward to supporting your efforts to save lives and reduce texting while driving.

Sincerely,

Ryan Clark
Regional Director—NH
External Affairs
AT&T Services Inc.

Bill as
Introduced

HB 424 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0562
11/05

HOUSE BILL **424**

AN ACT establishing a commission to study ways to reduce texting while driving.

SPONSORS: Rep. Torosian, Rock. 14; Rep. Janigian, Rock. 8; Rep. Gould, Hills. 7

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study ways to reduce texting while driving.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through~~].

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

21-0562
11/05

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT establishing a commission to study ways to reduce texting while driving.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 New Subdivision; Commission to Study Ways to Reduce Texting While Driving. Amend RSA 265 by inserting after section 161 the following new subdivision:

Commission to Study Ways to Reduce Texting While Driving

265:162 Commission to Study Ways to Reduce Texting While Driving.

I. There is established a commission to study ways to reduce texting while driving.

II. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

(a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

(c) The commissioner to the department of transportation, or designee.

(d) A representative of the telecommunications industry, appointed by the governor.

(e) The commissioner of the department of safety, or designee.

III. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.

IV. The commission shall study ways to reduce texting while driving.

V. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

VI. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state

library on or before November 1, 2021.

2 Repeal. RSA 265:162, relative to the commission to study ways to reduce texting while driving, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2021.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.