



# Legislative Alert

## H 3276 Full Committee Meeting Post Report



**Immediate Release: Tuesday March 4, 2025**

### **The Hands-Free bill H3276 makes it out of the House Judiciary Committee!**

So, we will try not to bore you, but the bill started out with two sides and a drink and by the time we got to the checkout it was just a piece of chicken! Now that doesn't make it a bad bill and it is now closer to the bills filed in the past except for having the two-point requirement removed.

It will now go on the House of Representatives calendar and will go through the process on the floor. We will try to keep you updated!

We have attached a video that you can watch on your computer on how to contact your representative to ask for their support.

**House bill was pre filed December 5, 2024**, This was before the start of session and there were several other hands free bills filed along with this one. Similar bills filed but did not have a subcommittee are S90, H3536 and H3806.

**The first subcommittee hearing was held on January 30, 2025**, The General Laws subcommittee chaired by Representative Case Brittain. The representative of AAA Michael Covington testified in favor of this bill. The SCDMV representative Peter Adamowsky testified that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will withheld 27 million the first year and 54 million the following years. After the testimony the adjourned debate, in other words they tabled it.

**The second subcommittee hearing was held on February 6, 2025**, The General Laws subcommittee chaired by Representative Case Brittain. Ralph Bell with ABATE testified in favor of this bill. The SC Trucking Association representative Rick Todd testified in favor and pointed out that the truck operators wanted this for all operators and not just CDL operators. After the testimony the adjourned debate Bill was amended to remove the 2-point assessment and also a clerical error on the fine description.

**The first full committee hearing was held on February 20, 2025**, The Judiciary full committee chaired by Weston Newton brought up this bill and Representative Case Brittain described the bill and answered various questions from other representatives. Due to a previous bill dealing with running from blue lights that they adjourned debate, some representative requested to adjourn debate on this bill which they did.

**The second full committee hearing was held on February 25, 2025**, The Judiciary full committee chaired by Weston Newton brought up this bill and Representative Case Brittain described the bill and answered various questions from other representatives. There was discussion on the "reasonable suspicion" so they decided to adjourn debate/

**The third full committee hearing was held on March 4, 2025**, The Judiciary full committee chaired by Weston Newton passed the bill with amendments that changed "reasonable suspicion" to "probable cause". They also removed the great bodily injury and death provisions that had been part of the original bill.

Bill passed with 17 ayes, 2 nays, 1 no vote and 1 absent.

**Next step is the House of Representatives floor to be voted on by all 124 members and then if passed off to the Senate!**