



Legislative Alert



Immediate Release: February 9, 2025

No it's not about the super bowl although we have made our first touchdown!

Our hands free bill H 3276 has passed the first hurdle which is the House of Representatives Judiciary Sub Committee and will head to the full committee sometime.

Below is the Information we currently have on this bill and as you know things could change depending on any further amendments.

We have also made a little video to show you how to contact all of these members but the video can only be viewed on your desktop.

We have also attached the talking points that we sent to the full committee and feel free to use it.

From the Strike Force:

Well, the session has started off with lots of new things, especially in the hands-free area. Representative Popes bill H 3276 with full support of Representative Talor, passed our first hurdle which was the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee favorably on Thursday February 6, 2025, with only one real amendment which was to remove the 2 points but without that amendment this bill would not pass.

This bill does have stiff penalties and consequences if great bodily injury or death is involved. We have never had any hands-free legislation with this language in it!

We are asking all members of the House of Representatives for co-sponsorship of these bills.

Hands Free H 3276: was introduced by Representative Pope with co-sponsorship by Representatives Robbins, Chapman, W. Newton, Taylor, Forrest and McGinnis.

(D)(1) A person who is adjudicated to be in violation of the provisions of this section is guilty of distracted driving and, upon conviction:



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(a) for a first offense, must be fined not more than one hundred dollars, no part of which may be suspended;

(b) for a second or subsequent offense, must be fined two hundred dollars, no part of which may be suspended,

(c) if the violation causes great bodily injury, must be fined one thousand dollars and sentenced to not more than five years. As used in this subsection, "great bodily injury" means bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ; or

(d) if the violation causes death, is convicted of a felony and must be fined five thousand dollars and imprisoned not more than five years.

(2) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the driver's license of a person who is convicted of violations in subsections (D)(1)(c) and (d).

(3) Excluding violations in subsections (D)(1)(c) and (d), only those offenses which occurred within three years, including and immediately preceding the date of the last offense, shall constitute prior offenses within the meaning of this subsection. A person who has been adjudicated to be in violation of this section, and the violation causes great bodily injury, must be fined one thousand dollar and sentence to not more than one year.

- We would like your support in making all drivers of South Carolina drive with their "Eyes Up, Phones Down" which will not only save lives in our great state but create better drivers for our future.
- Please feel free to reach out to us for any questions,

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[Hands Free 3276.pdf](#)

[How to contact the House of Representatives Judiciary committee.wmv](#)

If you have any question or would like more information please contact our Legislative Coordinator at state-legislative-coord@abateofsc.org

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