



**Steven L. Beshear**  
Governor

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**Nikki R. Jackson**  
Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

**PERSONNEL MEMO 09-25**

**TO:** All State Employees  
**FROM:** Nikki R. Jackson, Secretary   
**DATE:** December 16, 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Prohibition of Text Messaging while Driving State Vehicles

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For your safety and the safety of other travelers, Governor Beshear has signed an Executive Order effective today which prohibits state employees from text messaging while driving a government owned vehicle. An agency head may exempt from the requirements of the Executive Order, in whole or in part, certain employees, devices, or vehicles in their respective agencies that are engaged in or used for protective, law enforcement, or national security responsibilities or on the basis of other emergency conditions.

The measure is intended to assist in the overall improvement of highway safety across the Commonwealth. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that driver distraction and inattention contributes to 25% of police responded traffic crashes nationwide. Over 53,000 crashes occurred in Kentucky last year due to driver distraction and inattention, and studies show when drivers text, the collision risk is 23 times greater than when not texting.

With nearly 34,000 employees, Kentucky state government continually demonstrates leadership with pressing matters of public concern, and sets the example for county and local governments, private employers, and individual drivers. These efforts to prohibit text messages while driving employer issued vehicles, both by Kentucky state government and employers throughout the Commonwealth, will help save lives and reduce injuries.

We thank you for your support and adherence to this measure.