



EL PUENTE NEWS

Puerto Rico Transportation Technology Transfer Center / Puerto Rico LTAP



THE LAW OF DISTRACTED DRIVING IN PUERTO RICO

Distracted driving has become one of the leading causes of traffic crashes on a worldwide scale. It has put cyclists and pedestrians at risk, including innocent drivers on the road. Puerto Rico's Law 22-2000, amended and known as the "Puerto Rico Law on Traffic and Vehicles", was enacted to regulate distractions while driving.

The goal of this law is to enhance public safety on the island's roads. One of the most significant updates introduced by this law is the regulation of mobile phone usage while driving, whether it is used for texting, for browsing on the internet or for phone calls. Under this law, drivers are prohibited from:

- 1. **Talking or texting on a handheld mobile phone while driving.**
- 2. **Engaging in other distractions while operating any electronic device without a hands-free system.**
- 3. **Using mobile devices for social media or non-essential communication practices while driving.**

The first violation of this article carries a fine of \$100, while further violations increase the fine cost.

The [Article 10.25 of Law 22-2000](#) includes the following exceptions to the use of electronic devices or mobile phones while driving. Some exceptions of utilizing electronic devices or mobile phones include the following:

- **Situation of an emergency.** Drivers can use their phones in case of an emergency, such as contacting medical assistance or emergency first-responders.
- **Hands-free technology.** The use of hands-free systems are generally not subject to any penalty.
- **Stopped vehicles.** If a vehicle is *at a full stop* (such as at a traffic signal), the driver is allowed to use their phone manually.

This law applies to all types of drivers. However, the exceptions do not apply to bus drivers, school bus drivers, truck drivers, and motorcyclists. While significant progress has been made, it is important for drivers to continue adhering to the law and remain vigilant while on the road to further reduce the risks of distracted driving.



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This is a reminder of the dangers of distracted driving and the shared responsibility we all have, in order to keep our roads safe.

