

By: Craddick

H.B. No. 243

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the creation of an offense for certain uses of a
3 wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 545.425(a), Transportation Code, is
6 amended by adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

7 (1-a) "Text-based communication" means a
8 communication sent from a wireless communication device for the
9 purpose of manually communicating with another person in a written
10 medium. The term includes:

- 11 (A) a text message;
12 (B) an instant message; and
13 (C) electronic mail.

14 SECTION 2. Section 545.425, Transportation Code, is amended
15 by adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

16 (c-1) An operator may not use a wireless communication
17 device to read, write, or send a text-based communication while
18 operating a motor vehicle unless the vehicle is stopped.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.