



Summary of new laws passed by the 2009 legislature

The following summary lists the bills passed during the 2009 legislative session that relate to motor vehicle laws, public access buildings, and "underground economy". The bills are shown in alphabetical order by subject matter. As this is only a summary, it does not include every detail of every bill. If you are viewing this document electronically, you can click on the bill number to see the final version of the bill.

Motor vehicle laws: Distracted driving

It will be illegal for drivers to operate a vehicle while using a mobile telephone or other device for voice, text, email, or other electronic messaging. Exceptions include use in agriculture, use by public safety or medical personnel or volunteers, use by individuals where the device is integral to their employment (such as tow truck drivers), use of a hands-free device by a person over 17 years of age, and use of one-way devices, such as citizen band radio, ham radio, and intercoms.

The offense is a Class D traffic violation, punishable by a \$90 fine.

Takes effect January 1, 2010.

[House Bill 2377](#)

Public access buildings: Automated external defibrillators

The owner of a building must furnish at least one automated external defibrillator if the building has 50,000 square feet of floor space or more, is a place of public congregation or a place of business, and at least 25 individuals congregate on a normal business day.

School property and places of worship are exempt.

Takes effect July 1, 2009.

[Senate Bill 556](#)

"Underground economy"

The Interagency Compliance Network is established to facilitate the detection of employers who avoid compliance with employment and taxation laws. The network will include the principal state agencies that regulate employment activities. The goal is to establish consistency in agency determinations about independent contractors, share information about illegal practices (including paying workers in cash), and use coordinated investigative and enforcement tools.

Took effect July 1, 2009.

[House Bill 2815](#)