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LRB-0730/2 ARG:kjf&jld:rs

## 2003 ASSEMBLY BILL 58

February 13, 2003 – Introduced by Representatives Owens, Ainsworth and Hines. Referred to Committee on Highway Safety.

- AN ACT to amend 346.95 (2); and to create 346.895 of the statutes; relating to:
- operating a motor vehicle while using a cellular or other mobile telephone and providing a penalty.

## Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law prohibits inattentive driving, which means that a driver of a motor vehicle may not be so engaged or occupied as to interfere with the safe driving of the vehicle. Any person convicted of inattentive driving may be required to forfeit not less than \$20 nor more than \$400.

This bill generally prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle, other than an authorized emergency vehicle, while using a cellular or other mobile telephone (cellular phone), regardless of whether use of the cellular phone interferes with the operation of the vehicle. However, an operator may use a cellular phone to report an emergency. Any person convicted of operating a motor vehicle while using a cellular phone may be required to forfeit not less than \$20 nor more than \$400.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

**Section 1.** 346.895 of the statutes is created to read:

## ASSEMBLY BILL 58

<b>346.895</b> Use of cellular telephone. No person may operate a motor vehicle,
other than an authorized emergency vehicle, while using a cellular or other mobile
telephone, except to report an emergency.
<b>Section 2.</b> 346.95 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:
346.95 <b>(2)</b> Any person violating s. 346.89 (1), 346.895, or 346.94 (2), (4), or (7)
may be required to forfeit not less than \$20 nor more than \$400.
SECTION 3. Effective date.
(1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 4th month beginning after
publication.

(END)