

## Spring 2012 Road Rules: Anti-Texting Law

*In each issue of the Township Newsletter, the West Goshen Police Traffic Safety Unit will provide information for drivers, focusing on sections of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code or other traffic safety issues.*

Pennsylvania's anti-texting law, effective March 8, 2012, encourages motorists to put their full focus on driving.

### **What the Law Does**

- The law prohibits as a primary offense any driver from using an Interactive Wireless Communication Device (IWCD) to send, read or write a text-based communication while his or her vehicle is in motion.
- Defines an IWCD as a wireless phone, personal digital assistant, smart phone, portable or mobile computer, or similar devices that can be used for texting, instant messaging, emailing, or browsing the Internet.
- Defines a text-based communication as a text message, instant message, email, or other written communication composed or received on an IWCD.
- Institutes a \$50 fine for convictions under this section.
- Makes clear that this law supersedes and preempts any local ordinances restricting the use of interactive wireless devices by drivers.

The penalty is a summary offense with a \$50 fine, plus court costs and other fees.

The violation carries no points as a penalty and will not be recorded on the driver record for non-commercial drivers. It will be recorded on commercial drivers' records as a non-sanction violation.

The texting ban does NOT include the use of a GPS device, a system or device that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle, or a communications device that is affixed to a mass transit vehicle, bus or school bus. The law does not authorize the seizure of an IWCD.