



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

July 12, 2019

Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 198

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on July 12, 2019, I have vetoed House Bill 198, clarifying the prohibition against the use of mobile electronic devices while driving.

New Hampshire has among the most stringent distracted driving laws in the country. Drivers guilty of using mobile electronic devices while driving are already required to pay hefty fines, starting at \$100 for the first offense. In addition to those fines, this bill would require a license suspension of up to 15 days for a second offense, and no less than 30-days' suspension for any subsequent offense. These sanctions would disproportionately impact lower-income drivers by putting their ability to get to and from, and therefore their ability to retain, their jobs in jeopardy while their license is under suspension. New Hampshire already gets it right as a national leader against distracted driving without putting lower-income drivers in danger of losing their livelihoods.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 198.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor