

March 20, 2014
For: Southern Illinois Police Chief's (SIPCA)



Electronic communication devices--Attention Illinois Residents

You may want to print a copy of Illinois Public Act 98-0506. It is short and it is suggested that you include a copy of your Amateur Radio License and keep it with you just in case you come into contact with Law Enforcement.

The following was written by Tom Ciciora, ARRL Sec. Mgr. for IL, to his local paper on the subject of the new cell phone law starting Jan 1st. Print this and keep a copy in your mobile in case you are challenged by an IL State police or local PD about using your mobile radio while driving.

Illinois PA 98-0506

I'd like to point out an error in your piece about the subject law. You state that the only exceptions are for law enforcement, drivers reporting emergencies and drivers using electronic devices while parked on the shoulder of the roadway.

This is inaccurate. The other pertinent exceptions are as follows:

- (7) a driver using two-way or citizens band radio services;
- (8) a driver using two-way mobile radio transmitters or receivers for licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the amateur radio service;
- (9) a driver using an electronic communication device by pressing a single button to initiate or terminate a voice communication; or
- (10) a driver using an electronic communication device capable of performing multiple functions, other than a hand-held wireless telephone or hand-held personal digital assistant (for example, a fleet management system, dispatching device, citizens band radio, or music player) for a purpose that is not otherwise prohibited by this Section.

I am the elected Section Manager for the American Radio Relay League, the National Association for Amateur Radio. I represent approximately 3000 Amateur Radio Operators in the state of Illinois who are all licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. We are still thought of by the public as the old guy in his basement who interferes with televisions. We're not grandpa's ham radio any more, nor have we been for a long time. We interact closely with public safety and relief organizations to provide robust and disaster resistant communications When All Else Fails. To support those efforts, the ARRL through me and our representatives in Springfield, sought an amendment to the Law before it took effect. We were successful, thus producing the exceptions noted above.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

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