



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

DEMETRIUS J. ATSALIS  
REPRESENTATIVE  
2<sup>ND</sup> BARNSTABLE DISTRICT

ROOM 167, STATE HOUSE  
TEL. (617) 722-2810  
FAX: (617) 722-2846

Committees:  
Natural Resources  
Bonding  
Culture and Tourism

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT: Tom Bernardo**

**Wednesday, March 3, 2010**

**PHONE: 508-246-5500**

### **Atsalis Optimistic For Passage of Text Ban Bill!**

State Representative Demetrius J. Atsalis, Barnstable 2<sup>nd</sup> District, is cautiously optimistic about the chances to finally pass legislation which would ban texting while driving. **Atsalis**, who has introduced legislation to ban texting while driving over the last two legislative sessions said “**I believe the time has come along with the needed political will to get this done**”.

**Atsalis’s Bill** dealt specifically with the hazards of texting while driving and did not deal with hands free cell phone use in a vehicle. **Atsalis** stated, “**the fact is you cannot text hands free and you can talk hands free so the safety issue for me was glaringly different and keeping our “proverbial” eyes on the road was and remains my overriding concern.**”

The House has passed Legislation which bans all cell phone use other than hands free voice activated models in a vehicle and recently the Senate passed its own version which does not ban cell phone use other than the use of cell phones by drivers under the age of 18. The Bills now head to a joint House and Senate Conference Committee to come up with a single compromise version.

Atsalis is confident that however the final compromise version of the Bill to emerge reads, it will contain a ban on texting while driving. As he puts it, “**we’ve been working on this for well over two years and I am pleased that this concern and needed law will happen this session**”.