

# New Traffic Laws 2011

Here are some important new traffic laws passed by the 2011 Nevada Legislature. A short description of each is followed by its effective date, legislative bill number and applicable Nevada Revised Statute or NRS Chapter.

## Cell Phones



### Eyes on the Road - Toward Zero Fatalities

Texting, accessing the internet and hand-held cell phone use while driving are now against the law in Nevada.

You can talk using a hands-free headset and, while making voice calls, touch the phone to "activate, deactivate or initiate a feature or function on the device."

The fines are \$50 for the first offense in seven years, \$100 for the second and \$250 for the third and subsequent offenses. Fines are subject to doubling if the offense occurs in a work zone. The first offense is not treated as a moving violation for DMV and insurance purposes.

Exceptions include:

- Any person reporting a medical emergency, a safety hazard or criminal activity.
- Drivers using a voice-operated navigation system affixed to the vehicle or those riding in autonomous vehicles.
- Drivers using citizen band or other two-way radios that require a license and have a separate, hand-held microphone.
- Law enforcement officers, firefighters or emergency medical personnel acting within the scope of their employment.
- Utility workers responding to an outage or emergency and using devices provided by the company.
- Amateur radio operators providing communications services during an emergency or disaster.

These new laws are effective October 1, 2011.  
(10/1/11 – SB 140 - NRS Chapter 484B)

## Bicycles and Pedestrians

### Three Feet for Bikes

Motorists passing a bicycle must move into an adjacent lane to the left, if possible.

If not, the motorist must pass with at least three feet of space between the vehicle and the bicycle.

(10/1/11 – SB 248 - NRS 484B.270)



### Collisions

Motorists may be charged with reckless driving if they are at-fault in a collision with a bicyclist or a pedestrian. Penalties include a driver license suspension. (10/1/11 – AB 328 - NRS Chapter 484B)

### Parking Fee Exemption

Local governments will issue decals or labels that exempt alternative fuel vehicles from paying parking fees at public facilities within their jurisdiction. Fees may be charged during special events.

The vehicle must be plug-in electric or powered solely by natural gas, hydrogen or propane and meet certain other restrictions.

(1/1/12 – AB 511 - NRS Chapter 484A)

### DUI Checkpoints



Warning signs required at administrative road-blocks will now be placed between 700 feet and 1/4 mile from the road-block in urban areas. The previous placement was at least 1/4 mile, which remains the standard in rural areas.

(10/1/11 – SB 84 - NRS 484B.570)

### Uninsured Motorist Penalties

The \$250 DMV fee for a lapse in insurance coverage will go much higher for repeat offenders. The maximum penalty under a new tiered system is \$1,750 in fees and fines, a driver license suspension and SR-22 coverage. Get the details and update your policy information online at [www.dmvnv.com](http://www.dmvnv.com).

Penalties for citations issued by law enforcement are unchanged. (7/1/11 – SB 323 - NRS Chapter 482)

**zero**<sup>®</sup>  
**Fatalities**

*Drive Safe Nevada*

Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles  
Nevada Department of Transportation  
[dmvnmv.com](http://dmvnmv.com) | [zerofatalitiesnv.com](http://zerofatalitiesnv.com)