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(S.D.)-SD Lawmakers Endorse Teen Driving Safety Measures



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 02/04/2013 10:43 AM

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - A South Dakota legislative panel has endorsed a proposal that would prohibit beginning drivers under the age of 16 from using cellphones while behind the wheel.

The Senate Transportation Committee on Monday also endorsed three other measures that are part of a package of bills recommended by a task force that was created a year ago by the Legislature.

One measure would prohibit those with instruction or restricted permits from using cellphones or other electronic devices while driving.

Another would set up a coordinated drivers' education system with statewide standards for course content, instruction, testing and certification of instructors.

Officials say South Dakota has one of the nation's highest rates of fatal crashes among young drivers.