



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) 516 West Lookerman St., Dover, DE 19904
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 13, 2013

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: Terri Hancharick, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: **House Bill No. 155 (Distracted Driving: Wearable Computer with Head Mounted Display)**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed House Bill No. 155 on the Wearable Computer with Head Mounted Display and Distracted Driving. Council **endorses the concept** of the bill.

Google has developed a wearable multi-function computer ("Google Glass") which is worn like glasses with access to the Internet. It is a "hands-free" device. Some traffic safety proponents are concerned that individuals will be distracted if driving with the device. Background on "Google Glass" is provided in a Wikipedia article.

House Bill No. 155 would ban operation of a motor vehicle on the highway while using an electronic communication device while the motor vehicle is in motion. Similar legislation was introduced in West Virginia in March, 2013. See House Bill No. 3057.

There are pros and cons to the legislation. Detractors can cite to enforcement difficulties in trying to ascertain if the device is actually being operated while driving. They can also argue that the device is "safer" to use than a dashboard mounted GPS device or referring to a Smartphone screen for directions. Proponents can cite to the greater potential for distracted driving as operators drive while directing attention to a video screen only inches from their eyes to watch movies, read email, etc. While some drivers might only use the devices for GPS directions, Council suspects the majority would use it for extraneous multi-tasking, including checking emails. In turn, this may lead to more accidents.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of our position. Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss should you have questions or concerns.