

State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2009

02/25/2014 Authored by Slocum, Newton and Selcer

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to public safety; traffic regulations; prohibiting handheld use of  
1.3 wireless communications devices while a vehicle is in motion or part of traffic;  
1.4 establishing fines and criminal penalties; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012,  
1.5 section 169.475, subdivisions 2, 3, by adding a subdivision.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 169.475, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.8 Subd. 2. **Prohibition on use.** No person may operate a motor vehicle while using a  
1.9 wireless communications device to (i) compose, read, or send an electronic message, or  
1.10 (ii) make a cellular phone call, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.

1.11 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 169.475, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.12 Subd. 3. **Exceptions.** This section does not apply if a wireless communications  
1.13 device is used:

1.14 (1) solely in a voice-activated or other hands-free mode;  
1.15 ~~(2) for making a cellular phone call;~~  
1.16 ~~(3)~~ (2) for obtaining emergency assistance to (i) report a traffic accident, medical  
1.17 emergency, or serious traffic hazard, or (ii) prevent a crime about to be committed;  
1.18 ~~(4)~~ (3) in the reasonable belief that a person's life or safety is in immediate danger; or  
1.19 ~~(5)~~ (4) in an authorized emergency vehicle while in the performance of official duties.

1.20 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 169.475, is amended by adding a subdivision  
1.21 to read:

1.22 Subd. 4. **Violations; fine.** (a) Any motor vehicle operator who violates subdivision  
1.23 2 is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and must pay a fine of \$100.

2.1 (b) Any motor vehicle operator who is convicted of a second violation of subdivision  
2.2 2 shall pay a fine of \$200.

2.3 (c) Any motor vehicle operator who is convicted of a third or subsequent violation  
2.4 of subdivision 2 shall pay a fine of \$300, unless paragraph (d) applies.

2.5 (d) Any motor vehicle operator who violates subdivision 2 three or more times in a  
2.6 two-year period is guilty of a misdemeanor.