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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 2679

05/17/2017 Authored by Uglem, Newberger, Hornstein, Lohmer, Loon and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Regional Governance Policy

A bill for an act

relating to public safety; increasing penalties for distracted driving violations; amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 169.475, subdivision 2.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 169.475, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Prohibition on use; penalty.** (a) ~~No~~ When a motor vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic, the person ~~may operate a~~ operating the motor vehicle ~~while~~ is prohibited from using a wireless communications device to:

(1) compose, read, or send an electronic message~~, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.~~; or

(2) access the Internet.

(b) A person who violates paragraph (a) must pay a fine of $250. A person who violates paragraph (a) a second or subsequent time must pay a fine of ~~$225, plus the amount specified in the uniform fine schedule established by the Judicial Council~~ $500. The fines under this paragraph are in addition to the surcharge under section 357.021, subdivision 6.

(c) A person who violates paragraph (a) and causes great bodily harm to another is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. A person who violates paragraph (a) and causes the death of another is guilty of criminal vehicular homicide under section 609.2112.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2018, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.