

(c) If a motor vehicle is operated in violation of paragraph (a), the owner of the vehicle, or for a leased motor vehicle the lessee of the vehicle, is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and is subject to a fine as provided in paragraph (b). The owner or lessee may not be fined under this paragraph if (1) another person is convicted for that violation, or (2) the motor vehicle was stolen at the time of the violation. This paragraph does not apply to a lessor of a motor vehicle if the lessor keeps a record of the name and address of the lessee.

(d) Paragraph (c) does not prohibit or limit the prosecution of a motor vehicle operator for violating paragraph (a).

(e) A violation under paragraph (c) does not constitute grounds for revocation or suspension of a driver's license.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2017, and applies to violations that occur on or after that date.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 169.475, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

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

(1) solely in a voice-activated or other hands-free mode;

(2) ~~for making~~ to make a cellular phone call;

(3) ~~for obtaining~~ to obtain emergency assistance to (i) report a traffic accident, medical emergency, or serious traffic hazard, or (ii) prevent a crime about to be committed;

(4) in the reasonable belief that a person's life or safety is in immediate danger; or

(5) in an authorized emergency vehicle while in the performance of official duties.

(b) The exception in paragraph (a), clause (2), does not apply to a person who uses a wireless communications device while operating a motor vehicle in a work zone. For purposes of this paragraph, use of a wireless communications device includes using the device for a purpose other than communication.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2017, and applies to violations that occur on or after that date.