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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 3096

03/14/2016 Authored by Slocum

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

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to transportation; amending prohibition governing use of wireless  
1.3 communications device; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 169.475,  
1.4 subdivision 3; Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, section 169.475,  
1.5 subdivision 2.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, section 169.475, subdivision 2,  
1.8 is amended to read:

1.9 Subd. 2. **Prohibition on use; penalty.** (a) No person may operate a motor vehicle  
1.10 while using a wireless communications device to ~~compose, read, or send an electronic~~  
1.11 ~~message~~, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. For the purposes of this section,  
1.12 "using a wireless communications device" includes: (1) composing, reading, or sending  
1.13 an electronic message; (2) dialing, answering, or talking on a cellular phone; and (3)  
1.14 otherwise making a cellular phone call.

1.15 (b) A person who violates paragraph (a) a second or subsequent time must pay a  
1.16 fine of \$225, plus the amount specified in the uniform fine schedule established by the  
1.17 Judicial Council.

1.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2016, and applies to  
1.19 violations committed on or after that date.

1.20 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 169.475, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

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

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

- 2.1 (2) ~~for making a cellular phone call;~~
- 2.2 (3) for obtaining emergency assistance to (i) report a traffic accident, medical
- 2.3 emergency, or serious traffic hazard, or (ii) prevent a crime about to be committed;
- 2.4 (4) (3) in the reasonable belief that a person's life or safety is in immediate danger; or
- 2.5 (5) (4) in an authorized emergency vehicle while in the performance of official duties.

2.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2016, and applies to  
2.7 violations committed on or after that date.