

169.475 USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE.

Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, "electronic message" means a self-contained piece of digital communication that is designed or intended to be transmitted between physical devices. An electronic message includes, but is not limited to, e-mail, a text message, an instant message, a command or request to access a World Wide Web page, or other data that uses a commonly recognized electronic communications protocol. An electronic message does not include voice or other data transmitted as a result of making a phone call, or data transmitted automatically by a wireless communications device without direct initiation by a person.

Subd. 2. **Prohibition on use; penalty.** (a) No person may operate a motor vehicle while using a wireless communications device to compose, read, or send an electronic message, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.

(b) 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.

Subd. 3. **Exceptions.** 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 a cellular phone call;
- (3) for obtaining 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.

History: 2008 c 350 art 1 s 38; 2015 c 75 art 2 s 22