

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION.**

Section 2 is effective August 1, 1999, and applies to actions commenced on or after that date.

Presented to the governor March 23, 1999

Signed by the governor March 26, 1999, 1:41 p.m.

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**CHAPTER 24—S.F.No. 255**

*An act relating to crime; providing that interference with an emergency call is a crime; amending Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 609.78.*

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 609.78, is amended to read:

**609.78 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE CALLS AND COMMUNICATIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES.** Whoever does the following is guilty of a misdemeanor:

(1) refuses to relinquish immediately a coin-operated telephone or a telephone line consisting of two or more stations when informed that the line is needed to make an emergency call ~~for medical or ambulance service or for assistance from a police or fire department or for other service needed in an emergency to avoid serious harm to person or property, and an emergency exists;~~

(2) secures a relinquishment of a coin-operated telephone or a telephone line consisting of two or more stations by falsely stating that the line is needed for an emergency;

(3) publishes telephone directories to be used for telephones or telephone lines and the directories do not contain a copy of this section;

(4) makes ~~an emergency~~ a call for emergency medical or ambulance service, knowing that no medical emergency exists; or

(5) interrupts, disrupts, impedes, or otherwise interferes with the transmission of a citizen's band radio channel communication the purpose of which is to inform or inquire about a medical emergency or an emergency in which property is or is reasonably believed to be in imminent danger of damage or destruction.

Subd. 2. **INTERFERENCE WITH A ~~911~~ AN EMERGENCY CALL; GROSS MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE.** A person who intentionally interrupts, disrupts, impedes, or ~~otherwise~~ interferes with a ~~911~~ an emergency call or who intentionally prevents or hinders another from placing a ~~911~~ an emergency call, and whose conduct does not result in a violation of section 609.498, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than one year or to payment of a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

Subd. 3. **DEFINITION.** For purposes of this section, "emergency call" means:

(1) a 911 call;

(2) any call for emergency medical or ambulance service; or

(3) any call for assistance from a police or fire department or for other assistance needed in an emergency to avoid serious harm to person or property,

and an emergency exists.

**Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Section 1 is effective the day following final enactment and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Presented to the governor March 25, 1999

Signed by the governor March 29, 1999, 3:46 p.m.

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**CHAPTER 25—S.F.No. 460**

*An act relating to motor vehicles; allowing disability license plates to be issued for vehicles modified for use by disabled persons; amending Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 168.021, subdivision 1.*

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 168.021, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **SPECIAL PLATES; APPLICATION.** (a) When a motor vehicle registered under section 168.017, a motorcycle, a truck having a manufacturer's nominal rated capacity of one ton and resembling a pickup truck, or a self-propelled recreational vehicle is owned or primarily operated by a permanently physically disabled person or a custodial parent or guardian of a permanently physically disabled minor, the owner may apply for and secure from the registrar of motor vehicles (1) immediately, a temporary permit valid for 30 days, if the applicant is eligible for the special plates issued under this paragraph, and (2) two license plates with attached emblems, one plate to be attached to the front, and one to the rear of the vehicle. When the owner first applies for the plates, the owner must submit a physician's statement on a form developed by the commissioner under section 169.345, or proof of physical disability provided for in that section, except that no physician's statement or proof of disability is required when an owner applies for plates for one or more commercial motor vehicles that are specially modified for and used exclusively by permanently physically disabled persons.

(b) The owner of a motor vehicle may apply for and secure (i) immediately, a temporary permit valid for 30 days, if the person is eligible to receive the special plates issued under this paragraph, and (ii) a set of special plates for a motor vehicle if:

(1) the owner employs a permanently physically disabled person who would qualify for special plates under this section; and

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.