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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1206

02/25/2015 Authored by Slocum and Ward

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 public safety; traffic regulations; prohibiting handheld use of
1.3 wireless communications devices while a vehicle is in motion or part of traffic;
1.4 establishing fines and criminal penalties; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014,
1.5 section 169.475, subdivisions 2, 3, by adding a subdivision.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 169.475, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.8 Subd. 2. **Prohibition on use.** No person may operate a motor vehicle while using a
1.9 wireless communications device to (i) compose, read, or send an electronic message, or
1.10 (ii) make a cellular phone call, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.

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

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

- 1.14 (1) solely in a voice-activated or other hands-free mode;
- 1.15 ~~(2) for making a cellular phone call;~~
- 1.16 ~~(3)~~ (2) for obtaining emergency assistance to (i) report a traffic accident, medical
1.17 emergency, or serious traffic hazard, or (ii) prevent a crime about to be committed;
- 1.18 ~~(4)~~ (3) in the reasonable belief that a person's life or safety is in immediate danger; or
- 1.19 ~~(5)~~ (4) in an authorized emergency vehicle while in the performance of official duties.

1.20 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 169.475, is amended by adding a subdivision
1.21 to read:

1.22 Subd. 4. **Violations; fine.** (a) Any motor vehicle operator who violates subdivision
1.23 2 is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and must pay a fine of \$100.

2.1 (b) Any motor vehicle operator who is convicted of a second or subsequent violation
2.2 of subdivision 2 shall pay a fine of \$300, unless paragraph (c) applies.

2.3 (c) Any motor vehicle operator who violates subdivision 2 three or more times in a
2.4 two-year period is guilty of a misdemeanor.

2.5 Sec. 4. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2.6 Sections 1 to 3 are effective August 1, 2015, and apply to violations committed
2.7 on or after that date.