



**STATE OF IOWA**  
KIM REYNOLDS  
GOVERNOR

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Paul Pate  
Secretary of State of Iowa  
State Capitol  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I hereby transmit:

Senate File 22, an Act relating to the use of an electronic device in a voice-activated or hands-free mode while driving, providing penalties, and making penalties applicable.

The above Senate File is hereby approved on this date.

Sincerely,

  
Kim Reynolds  
Governor of Iowa

cc: Secretary of the Senate  
Clerk of the House



Senate File 22

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE USE OF AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE IN A VOICE-ACTIVATED OR HANDS-FREE MODE WHILE DRIVING, PROVIDING PENALTIES, AND MAKING PENALTIES APPLICABLE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. Section 321.178, subsection 2, paragraph a, subparagraph (2), Code 2025, is amended by striking the subparagraph.

Sec. 2. Section 321.178, subsection 2, paragraphs b and c, Code 2025, are amended to read as follows:

b. ~~The department may suspend a restricted work license issued under this subsection upon receiving satisfactory evidence that the licensee has violated the restrictions imposed under paragraph "a", subparagraph (2), subparagraph division (a).~~ The department may also suspend a restricted work license issued under this subsection upon receiving a record of the person's conviction for one violation and shall revoke the license upon receiving a record of conviction for two or more violations of a law of this state or a city ordinance regulating the operation of motor vehicles on highways, other than parking violations as described in section 321.210. After revoking a restricted work license under this paragraph, the department shall not grant an application for a new driver's license or instruction permit until the expiration

of one year or until the person attains the age of eighteen, whichever is the longer period.

~~c. A person who violates the restrictions imposed under paragraph "a", subparagraph (2), subparagraph division (a), may be issued a citation under this section and shall not be issued a citation under section 321.193. A violation of the restrictions imposed under paragraph "a", subparagraph (2), subparagraph division (a), shall not be considered a moving violation.~~

Sec. 3. Section 321.180B, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

b. The department may suspend an instruction permit, intermediate license, or full license issued under this section upon receiving satisfactory evidence that the person issued the instruction permit, intermediate license, or full license violated the restrictions imposed under subsection 1, or 2, ~~or 6~~ during the term of the instruction permit or intermediate license.

Sec. 4. Section 321.180B, subsection 6, Code 2025, is amended by striking the subsection.

Sec. 5. Section 321.180B, subsection 7, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

7. *Citations for violation of restrictions.* A person who violates the restrictions imposed under subsection 1, or 2, ~~or 6~~ may be issued a citation under this section and shall not be issued a citation under section 321.193. A violation of the restrictions imposed under ~~subsection~~ subsections 1 and 2, ~~or 6~~ shall not be considered a moving violation.

Sec. 6. Section 321.194, subsection 5, paragraph d, Code 2025, is amended by striking the paragraph.

Sec. 7. Section 321.210, subsection 2, paragraph e, Code 2025, is amended by striking the paragraph.

Sec. 8. Section 321.238, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

**321.238 Use of electronic devices while driving — preemption of local legislation.**

The provisions of this chapter restricting the use of electronic ~~communication devices and electronic entertainment~~

devices by motor vehicle operators shall be implemented uniformly throughout the state. Such provisions shall preempt any county or municipal ordinance regarding the use of an ~~electronic communication device or electronic entertainment~~ device by a motor vehicle operator. In addition, a county or municipality shall not adopt or continue in effect an ordinance regarding the use of an ~~electronic communication device or~~ ~~electronic entertainment~~ device by a motor vehicle operator.

Sec. 9. Section 321.276, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1. For purposes of this section:

a. *“Electronic device”* means a device that is powered by electricity, including by a battery, and that is capable of being used to compose, send, receive, or read an electronic message, or that is capable of storing, retrieving on-demand, or displaying videos, movies, broadcast television images, visual images, or audio or video data files. *“Electronic device”* includes but is not limited to a telephone including a cellular telephone, personal digital assistant, portable or mobile computer including a tablet, two-way messaging device, electronic gaming device, and any substantially similar portable device that is used to initiate, store, or receive electronic communication, information, or data. *“Electronic device”* does not include a device that is physically or electronically integrated into a motor vehicle, including but not limited to an integrated global positioning system or navigation system when the destination is entered into such system before the vehicle is in motion.

b. *“Use”* includes but is not limited to holding, viewing, or manipulating an electronic device.

c. *“Voice-activated or hands-free mode”* means an attachment, accessory, application, wireless connection, or built-in feature of an electronic device or motor vehicle that allows a person to use verbal commands or a single touch to activate or deactivate the device or a function or software application of the device. *“Voice-activated or hands-free mode”* does not include accessing nonnavigation video content, engaging in a video call, accessing or engaging in video streaming, accessing

gaming data, or reading an electronic message or notification.

Sec. 10. Section 321.276, subsections 2, 3, and 4, Code 2025, are amended to read as follows:

2. A person shall not use a ~~hand-held~~ an electronic communication device ~~to write, send, or view an electronic message~~ while driving a motor vehicle unless the motor vehicle is at a complete stop off the traveled portion of the roadway, or as far away from the center of the roadway as is practicable if the vehicle cannot be entirely removed from the traveled portion of the roadway.

a. A person does not violate this section by using a ~~global positioning system or navigation system or when, for the purpose of engaging in a call, the person selects or enters a telephone number or name in a hand-held mobile telephone or activates, deactivates, or initiates a function of a hand-held mobile telephone~~ an electronic device in a voice-activated or hands-free mode.

b. The provisions of this subsection relating to ~~writing, sending, or viewing an electronic message~~ the use of an electronic device do not apply to the following persons:

(1) A member of a public safety agency, as defined in section 34.1, performing official duties.

(2) A health care professional in the course of an emergency situation.

(3) A person receiving safety-related information including emergency, ~~traffie,~~ or weather alerts.

(4) A person using an electronic device for the purpose of reporting an emergency situation, including any continued communication with emergency personnel during the emergency situation or public transit personnel responding to a transit-specific situation.

(5) A person operating an implement of husbandry.

(6) A person using a two-way radio transmitter or receiver who is licensed with the federal communications commission in amateur radio service.

(7) A member of a public transit system, as defined in section 324A.1, performing official duties while in a vehicle that is not in motion.

(8) A utility maintenance employee or contractor using

an electronic device while in a utility maintenance vehicle, for the purpose of providing utility services including but not limited to cable, electric, natural gas, telephone, telecommunication, water, and wastewater treatment services, provided the employee or contractor is acting within the scope of their employment or agency.

(9) A transportation network company driver, as defined in section 321N.1, while engaged in a prearranged ride, as defined in section 321N.1, provided the vehicle is not in motion.

(10) A person using an electronic device for the purpose of accessing or using a fleet management system.

3. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize a peace officer to confiscate ~~a hand-held~~ an electronic communication device from the driver or occupant of a motor vehicle.

4. *a.* A person convicted of a violation of this section is guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable as a scheduled violation under section 805.8A, subsection 14, paragraph "1".

*b.* A violation of this section shall ~~not~~ be considered a moving violation for purposes of this chapter ~~or~~ and rules adopted pursuant to this chapter.

*c.* Notwithstanding paragraphs "a" and "b", a peace officer shall issue a warning memorandum in lieu of a citation to a person for violating this section. This paragraph is repealed January 1, 2026.

Sec. 11. Section 321.482A, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

Notwithstanding section 321.482, a person who is convicted of operating a motor vehicle in violation of ~~section 321.178, subsection 2, paragraph "a", subparagraph (2), section 321.180B, subsection 6, section 321.194, subsection 5, paragraph "d", section 321.256, 321.257, section 321.275, subsection 4, section 321.276, 321.297, 321.298, 321.299, 321.302, 321.303, 321.304, 321.305, 321.306, 321.307, 321.311, 321.319, 321.320, 321.321, 321.322, 321.323, 321.324, 321.324A, 321.327, 321.329, 321.333, section 321.372, subsection 3, or section 321.449B, causing serious injury to or the death of another person may be subject to the following penalties in addition to the penalty provided for a scheduled violation in~~

section 805.8A or any other penalty provided by law:

Sec. 12. Section 321.555, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

2. Six or more of any separate and distinct offenses within a two-year period in the operation of a motor vehicle, which are required to be reported to the department by section 321.491 or chapter 321C, except equipment violations, parking violations as defined in section 321.210, violations of registration laws, violations of sections 321.445 and 321.446, ~~violations of section 321.276,~~ operating a vehicle with an expired license or permit, failure to appear, weights and measures violations and speeding violations of less than fifteen miles per hour over the legal speed limit.

Sec. 13. Section 707.6A, subsection 2, paragraph a, subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3), Code 2025, are amended by striking the subparagraphs and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(1) For purposes of this paragraph "a", a person's use of an electronic device while driving a motor vehicle shall be considered prima facie evidence that the person was driving the motor vehicle in a reckless manner with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property, in violation of section 321.277.

(2) Subparagraph (1) does not apply to any of the following:

(a) A person using an electronic device in a voice-activated or hands-free mode.

(b) A person listed in section 321.276, subsection 2, paragraph "b".

(3) For purposes of this paragraph "a", the following definitions apply:

(a) "Electronic device" means the same as defined in section 321.276.

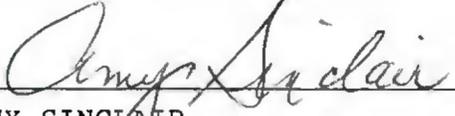
(b) "Use" means the same as defined in section 321.276.

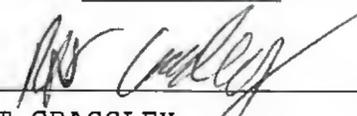
(c) "Voice-activated or hands-free mode" means the same as defined in section 321.276.

Sec. 14. Section 805.8A, subsection 4, paragraph c, Code 2025, is amended by striking the paragraph.

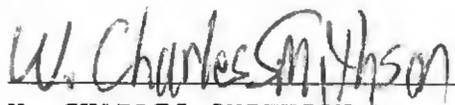
Sec. 15. Section 805.8A, subsection 14, paragraph 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

1. ~~Writing, sending, or viewing an~~ Use of electronic message device while driving violations. For violations under section 321.276, the scheduled fine is ~~forty-five~~ one hundred dollars.

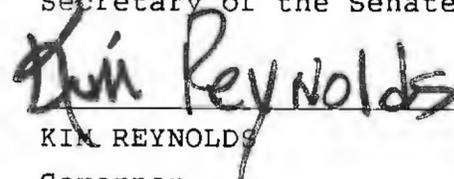
  
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AMY SINCLAIR  
President of the Senate

  
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PAT GRASSLEY  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the Senate and is known as Senate File 22, Ninety-first General Assembly.

  
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W. CHARLES SMITHSON  
Secretary of the Senate

Approved April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

  
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KIM REYNOLDS  
Governor