

# State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2014

228V0042

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

ENGROSSED NO. **HB 1177** - 03/14/2014

Introduced by: Representatives Gosch, Cronin, Dryden, May, Novstrup (David), Olson (Betty), Steele, Stevens, Westra, and Wink and Senators Maher, Brown, Curd, Jones (Chuck), Kirkeby, Peters, and Rave

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to prohibit certain use of handheld electronic wireless  
2 communication devices while driving and to provide a penalty therefor.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. That chapter 32-26 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as  
5 follows:

6 No person may operate a motor vehicle on a highway while using a handheld electronic  
7 wireless communication device to write, send, or read a text-based communication. This section  
8 does not apply to a person who is using a handheld electronic wireless communication device:

- 9 (1) While the vehicle is lawfully parked;
- 10 (2) To contact any emergency public safety answering point or dispatch center;
- 11 (3) To write, read, select, or enter a telephone number or name in an electronic wireless  
12 communications device for the purpose of making or receiving a telephone call; or
- 13 (4) When using voice operated or hands free technology.

14 State or local law enforcement agencies shall enforce this section as a secondary action. A



1 violation of this section is a petty offense with a fine of one hundred dollars.

2 Section 2. That chapter 32-26 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as  
3 follows:

4 Terms used in this Act mean:

5 (1) "Electronic wireless communication device," a mobile communication device that  
6 uses short-wave analog or digital radio transmissions or satellite transmissions  
7 between the device and a transmitter to permit wireless telephone communications  
8 to and from the user of the device within a specified area;

9 (2) "Voice operated or hands free technology," technology that allows a user to write,  
10 send, or listen to a text-based communication without the use of either hand except  
11 to activate, deactivate, or initiate a feature or function; and

12 (3) "Write, send, or read a text-based communication," using an electronic wireless  
13 communications device to manually communicate with any person using text-based  
14 communication including communications referred to as a text message, instant  
15 message, or electronic mail.

16 Section 3. That chapter 32-26 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as  
17 follows:

18 The Department of Public Safety shall expend lawfully appropriated funds to develop and  
19 communicate a distracted drivers public awareness campaign.

20 Section 4. That chapter 32-26 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as  
21 follows:

22 No handheld electronic wireless communication device used in violation of this Act may  
23 be seized by a law enforcement officer to establish a violation of this Act. However, a handheld  
24 electronic wireless communication device may be seized upon compliance with the search and

1 seizure requirements in chapter 23A-35.

2 Section 5. That § 23-1A-22 be amended to read as follows:

3 23-1A-22. If the plaintiff prevails in a petty offense case, the plaintiff shall be granted a  
4 judgment of twenty-five dollars. If the plaintiff prevails in a petty offense case under section 1  
5 of this Act, the plaintiff shall be granted a judgment of one hundred dollars. However, the trial  
6 court may reduce or eliminate the award in the interest of justice. No award may be granted a  
7 defendant in a petty offense case. If a deposit is required by this chapter, it shall be the amount  
8 set by this section.