



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

April 17, 2017

The Honorable Paul Pate
Secretary of State of Iowa
State Capitol Building
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hereby transmit:

Senate File 234, an Act relating to the use of electronic communication devices to write, send, or view electronic messages while driving as a primary offense, and making penalties applicable.

The above Senate File is hereby approved this date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry E. Branstad".

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Clerk of the House



Senate File 234

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES TO WRITE, SEND, OR VIEW ELECTRONIC MESSAGES WHILE DRIVING AS A PRIMARY OFFENSE, AND MAKING PENALTIES APPLICABLE.

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

Section 1. Section 321.276, subsection 1, paragraphs b, c, and d, Code 2017, are amended to read as follows:

b. *"Hand-held electronic communication device"* means a mobile telephone or other portable electronic communication device capable of being used to write, send, or ~~read a text~~ view an electronic message. *"Hand-held electronic communication device"* does not include a voice-operated or hands-free device which allows the user to write, send, or ~~read a text~~ view an electronic message without the use of either hand except to activate or deactivate a feature or function. *"Hand-held electronic communication device"* does not include a wireless

communication device used to transmit or receive data as part of a digital dispatch system. *“Hand-held electronic communication device”* includes a device which is temporarily mounted inside the motor vehicle, unless the device is a voice-operated or hands-free device.

c. ~~Text~~ *“Electronic message”* includes images visible on the screen of a hand-held electronic communication device including a text-based message, an instant message, and a portion of electronic mail, an internet site, a social media application, or a game.

d. The terms *“write”*, *“send”*, and ~~“read”~~ *“view”*, with respect to ~~a text~~ an electronic message, mean the manual entry, transmission, ~~and~~ or retrieval of ~~a text~~ an electronic message, respectively, ~~to communicate with any other person or device~~ and include playing, browsing, or accessing an electronic message.

Sec. 2. Section 321.276, subsection 2, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

A person shall not use a hand-held electronic communication device to write, send, or ~~read a text~~ 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.

Sec. 3. Section 321.276, subsection 2, paragraph b, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

The provisions of this subsection relating to ~~reading a text~~ writing, sending, or viewing an electronic message do not apply to the following persons:

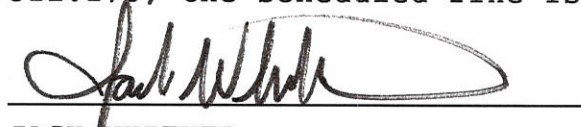
Sec. 4. Section 321.276, subsection 3, Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

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

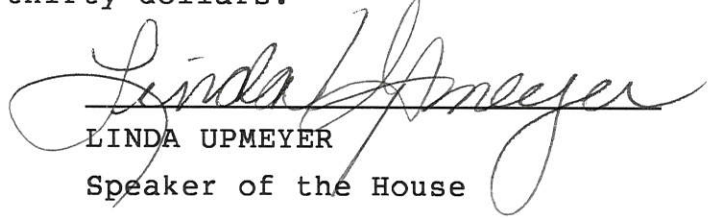
Sec. 5. Section 321.276, subsection 5, Code 2017, is amended by striking the subsection.

Sec. 6. Section 805.8A, subsection 14, paragraph 1, Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

1. ~~Text-messaging~~ Writing, sending, or viewing an electronic message while driving violations. For violations under section 321.276, the scheduled fine is thirty dollars.



JACK WHITVER
President of the Senate



LINDA UPMEYER
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the Senate and is known as Senate File 234, Eighty-seventh General Assembly.



W. CHARLES SMITHSON
Secretary of the Senate

Approved April 17, 2017



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
Governor