

Senate File 164 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 164
BY BOLKCOM

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the opening of a door on the side of a
2 vehicle available to moving traffic and providing a penalty.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 321.362A Opening and closing
2 vehicle doors.

3 1. A person shall not open a door on a vehicle on the side
4 available to moving traffic unless it is reasonably safe to do
5 so and can be done without interfering with the movement of
6 such traffic. A person shall not leave a door open on the side
7 of a vehicle available to moving traffic for a period of time
8 longer than necessary to load or unload passengers.

9 2. This section does not apply to a member of a public
10 safety agency, as defined in section 34.1, performing official
11 duties.

12 3. A person convicted of a violation of this section is
13 guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable as a scheduled
14 violation under section 805.8A, subsection 14, paragraph "m".

15 Sec. 2. Section 805.8A, subsection 14, Code 2013, is amended
16 by adding the following new paragraph:

17 NEW PARAGRAPH. *m. Open vehicle door violations.* For
18 violations under section 321.362A, the scheduled fine is one
19 hundred dollars.

20 EXPLANATION

21 This bill adds a new Code section that prohibits a person
22 from opening a door on the side of a vehicle available to
23 moving traffic unless it is reasonably safe to do so and can
24 be done without interfering with the movement of traffic. In
25 addition, a person is prohibited from leaving a door open on
26 the side of a vehicle available to moving traffic for longer
27 than it takes to load or unload passengers. The new provision
28 is modeled after a provision in the uniform vehicle code
29 published by the national committee on uniform traffic laws and
30 ordinances.

31 Members of public safety agencies are exempt from the
32 provisions of the bill when performing official duties.
33 Pursuant to current law, a functional unit of a public agency
34 that provides fire fighting, law enforcement, ambulance,
35 medical, or other emergency services is a "public safety

1 agency".

2 A person who violates the provisions of the bill is guilty of
3 a simple misdemeanor punishable by a scheduled fine of \$100.