

Senate File 234 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 234

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1002)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the use of electronic communication devices
2 to write, send, or read text messages while driving as a
3 primary offense.

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

1 Section 1. Section 321.276, subsection 5, Code 2017, is
2 amended by striking the subsection.

3 EXPLANATION

4 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
5 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

6 This bill eliminates the provision that prohibits a peace
7 officer from stopping or detaining a person solely for a
8 violation of Code section 321.276, which relates to texting
9 while driving.

10 The scheduled fine for a violation of Code section 321.276
11 remains \$30. Under current law, the offense is not a moving
12 violation, and therefore cannot be considered for purposes
13 of administrative suspension of a driver's license or for
14 establishing habitual offender status. However, if the
15 violation causes a serious injury, a court could impose an
16 additional fine of \$500 or suspend the person's driver's
17 license for not more than 90 days, or both. If the violation
18 causes a death, a court could impose an additional fine of
19 \$1,000 or suspend the person's driver's license for not more
20 than 180 days, or both.