

House File 2437 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2437
BY KNIFF McCULLA

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the use of an electronic device by deaf
2 or hard-of-hearing persons to communicate in American sign
3 language while driving, and making penalties applicable.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 321.276, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
2 2026, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

3 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (11) A deaf or hard-of-hearing person
4 using an electronic device to communicate in American sign
5 language if the person is at least twenty-five years old and
6 holds a driver's license marked to reflect the person's deaf or
7 hard-of-hearing status on the face of the license, including as
8 provided in section 321.189, subsection 9, or a similar provision
9 for the jurisdiction that issued the license. A person using an
10 electronic device pursuant to this subparagraph shall not touch
11 the device while driving the vehicle unless the vehicle is at
12 a complete stop. The electronic device must remain fixed to
13 the vehicle in a manner and location that does not obstruct the
14 person's view or operation of the vehicle.

15 EXPLANATION

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

18 Under current law, a person is prohibited from using an
19 electronic device while driving a motor vehicle unless the motor
20 vehicle is at a complete stop off the traveled portion of the
21 roadway, or as far away from the center of the roadway as is
22 practicable if the vehicle cannot be entirely removed from the
23 traveled portion of the roadway. A person may use an electronic
24 device in a voice-activated or hands-free mode. Exceptions to
25 the general prohibition are provided, and this bill adds to the
26 exceptions by authorizing a deaf or hard-of-hearing person to
27 use an electronic device to communicate in American sign language
28 while driving. The person must be at least 25 years old and hold
29 a driver's license that is marked to reflect the person's deaf or
30 hard-of-hearing status on the face of the license.

31 A person using an electronic device pursuant to the bill is
32 prohibited from touching the device while driving the vehicle
33 unless the vehicle is at a complete stop. In addition, the
34 electronic device must remain fixed to the vehicle in an
35 unobstructive manner and location.

1 A person who violates Code section 321.276 commits a simple
2 misdemeanor punishable by a \$100 scheduled fine and the violation
3 is considered a moving violation for purposes of administrative
4 driver's license sanctions.

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