

**House File 506 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 506

BY JONES, B. MEYER, and LOHSE

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to the penalties for persons who operate a motor
- 2 vehicle while their operating privileges are denied, canceled,
- 3 suspended, revoked, or barred.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 321.218, subsection 1, Code 2025, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. A person whose driver's license or operating privilege has  
4 been denied, canceled, suspended, or revoked as provided in this  
5 chapter or as provided in section 252J.8, and who operates a  
6 motor vehicle upon the highways of this state while the license  
7 or privilege is denied, canceled, suspended, or revoked, commits  
8 ~~a simple misdemeanor~~ one of the following:

9 a. For a first offense, a simple misdemeanor punishable as a  
10 scheduled violation under section 805.8A, subsection 4, paragraph  
11 "0k". In addition to any other penalties, the punishment imposed  
12 for a violation of this subsection shall include assessment of a  
13 fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars nor more than one  
14 thousand five hundred dollars.

15 b. For a second offense, a simple misdemeanor.

16 c. For a third or subsequent offense, a serious misdemeanor.

17 Sec. 2. Section 321.218, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended  
18 by striking the subsection.

19 Sec. 3. Section 321A.32, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended  
20 to read as follows:

21 1. a. Any A person whose license or registration or  
22 nonresident's nonresident operating privilege has been suspended,  
23 denied, or revoked under this chapter or continues to remain  
24 suspended or revoked under this chapter, and who, during such  
25 suspension, denial, or revocation, or during such continuing  
26 suspension or continuing revocation, drives any motor vehicle  
27 upon any highway or knowingly commits one of the following:

28 (1) For a first offense, a simple misdemeanor punishable as a  
29 scheduled violation under section 805.8A, subsection 4, paragraph  
30 "0k".

31 (2) For a second offense, a simple misdemeanor.

32 (3) For a third or subsequent offense, a serious misdemeanor.

33 b. A person who drives or knowingly permits any a motor  
34 vehicle owned by such person to be operated by another upon any  
35 a highway, while the vehicle's registration is suspended, denied,

1 or revoked under this chapter, except as permitted under this  
2 chapter, shall be guilty of a simple misdemeanor. In addition  
3 to any other penalties, the punishment imposed for a violation  
4 of this ~~subsection~~ paragraph shall include assessment of a fine  
5 of not less than two hundred fifty dollars nor more than one  
6 thousand five hundred dollars.

7 Sec. 4. Section 321J.21, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 1. A person whose driver's license or nonresident operating  
10 privilege has been suspended, denied, revoked, or barred due to  
11 a violation of this chapter and who drives a motor vehicle while  
12 the license or privilege is suspended, denied, revoked, or barred  
13 commits ~~a serious misdemeanor~~ one of the following:

14 a. For a first offense, a simple misdemeanor punishable as a  
15 scheduled violation under section 805.8A, subsection 4, paragraph  
16 "Ok". In addition to any other penalties, the punishment imposed  
17 for a violation of this subsection shall include assessment of a  
18 fine of one thousand dollars.

19 b. For a second offense, a simple misdemeanor.

20 c. For a third or subsequent offense, a serious misdemeanor.

21 Sec. 5. Section 805.8A, subsection 4, Code 2025, is amended  
22 by adding the following new paragraph:

23 NEW PARAGRAPH. Ok. Section 321.218, subsection 1, paragraph  
24 "a", section 321A.32, subsection 1, paragraph "a", subparagraph  
25 (1), and section 321J.21, subsection 1, paragraph "a".....\$250.

26 EXPLANATION

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

29 Under current law, a person who operates a motor vehicle  
30 while the person's driver's license or operating privilege is  
31 denied, canceled, suspended, or revoked under Code chapter 321  
32 (motor vehicles and law of the road) or while the person's  
33 driver's license is suspended, denied, or revoked under Code  
34 chapter 321A (motor vehicle financial responsibility) commits a  
35 simple misdemeanor. These simple misdemeanors are punishable

1 by confinement for no more than 30 days and a fine of at  
2 least \$250 but not more than \$1,500 (rather than the default  
3 simple misdemeanor fine range between \$105 and \$855). The  
4 sentence imposed for such a violation under Code chapter 321  
5 cannot be suspended. If a person operates a motor vehicle while  
6 the person's driver's license is suspended, denied, revoked, or  
7 barred due to a violation of Code chapter 321J (operating while  
8 intoxicated (OWI)), the person commits a serious misdemeanor  
9 punishable by confinement for no more than one year and a fine  
10 of \$1,000 (rather than the default serious misdemeanor fine range  
11 between \$430 and \$2,560).

12 This bill makes a first offense for operating a motor vehicle  
13 while the driver's license is canceled (under Code chapter 321),  
14 or denied, suspended, or revoked (under Code chapters 321, 321A,  
15 and 321J), or barred (under Code chapter 321J), a scheduled  
16 violation under Code section 805.8A. The scheduled fine for such  
17 a violation is \$250. The bill makes a second violation a  
18 simple misdemeanor and a third or subsequent violation a serious  
19 misdemeanor. A simple misdemeanor is punishable by confinement  
20 for no more than 30 days and a fine of at least \$105 but not more  
21 than \$855. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement  
22 for no more than one year and a fine of at least \$430 but not  
23 more than \$2,560. The bill also strikes the prohibition on  
24 suspending the sentence under Code section 321.218.

25 In accordance with current law (Code sections 805.6 through  
26 805.11), a uniform citation and complaint, and associated  
27 procedures, is authorized for charging traffic violations and  
28 other violations which are designated as scheduled violations  
29 by Code section 805.8A (motor vehicle and transportation  
30 scheduled violations), 805.8B (navigation, recreation, hunting,  
31 and fishing scheduled violations), or 805.8C (miscellaneous  
32 scheduled violations).

33 The underlying driver's license sanction of a person convicted  
34 for driving while denied, canceled, suspended, revoked, or barred  
35 under the bill would be extended in accordance with current law.