

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETIETH SESSION**

**S.F. No. 1721**

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOFFMAN and Carlson)

DATE  
03/02/2017

D-PG

Introduction and first reading  
Referred to Transportation Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to public safety; increasing penalties for distracted driving violations;  
1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 169.475, subdivision 2.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 169.475, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.6 Subd. 2. **Prohibition on use; penalty.** (a) No person may operate a motor vehicle while  
1.7 using a wireless communications device to compose, read, or send an electronic message,  
1.8 when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. A person who violates this paragraph must  
1.9 pay a fine of \$125. This fine is in addition to the surcharge under section 357.021, subdivision  
1.10 6.

1.11 (b) A person who violates paragraph (a) a second or subsequent time must pay a fine of  
1.12 ~~\$225, plus the amount specified in the uniform fine schedule established by the Judicial~~  
1.13 ~~Council~~ \$300. This fine is in addition to the surcharge under section 357.021, subdivision  
1.14 6.

1.15 (c) A person who violates paragraph (a) and causes great bodily harm or death to another  
1.16 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

1.17 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2017, and applies to crimes  
1.18 committed on or after that date.