

Fifty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2331

Introduced by

Senators Tallackson, Mathern, Thane

Representatives Maragos, Solberg

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 39-06-06, 39-06-17, and 39-08-03 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to portable devices in motor vehicles.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-06-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **39-06-06. Temporary operator's permit.** The director may issue a temporary
7 operator's permit for the operation of a motor vehicle to an applicant for an operator's license
8 pending an investigation and determination of facts relative to the applicant's right to receive an
9 operator's license. The permit must be in the applicant's immediate possession while operating
10 a motor vehicle and is invalid when the applicant's license has been issued or denied. The
11 applicant may not use a portable wireless telecommunications device while operating a motor
12 vehicle if that device is portable for the device's intended use and requires the applicant to
13 remove a digit on the hand of the applicant from the steering wheel for use of the device.

14 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-06-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **39-06-17. Restricted licenses - Penalty for violation.**

17 1. The director, upon issuing an operator's license or a temporary restricted
18 operator's license pursuant to section 39-06.1-11, has authority to impose
19 restrictions suitable to the licensee's driving ability with respect to the type of or
20 special mechanical control devices required on a motor vehicle which the licensee
21 may operate or such other restrictions applicable to the licensee as the director
22 may determine to be appropriate to assure the safe operation of a motor vehicle by
23 the licensee. The director shall impose the restriction of prohibiting the use of a
24 portable telecommunications device that requires the licensee to remove a digit on

1 the hand of that individual from the steering wheel while the licensee is operating a
2 motor vehicle for use of the device.

3 2. The director may either issue a special restricted license or may set forth such
4 restrictions upon the usual license form. The director shall likewise restrict licenses
5 pursuant to the requirements of section 39-16.1-09.

6 3. A restricted operator's license or permit to operate the parent's or guardian's
7 automobile, or an automobile which is equipped with dual controls and while
8 accompanied by a qualified instructor, may be issued to any child, who is at least
9 fourteen years of age, and otherwise qualified, upon the written recommendation of
10 the parent or guardian. ~~No~~ An operator's license may not be issued until the child,
11 accompanied by the parent or guardian, appears in person and satisfies the
12 director that:

- 13 a. The child is at least fourteen years of age.
14 b. The child is qualified to operate an automobile safely.
15 c. It is necessary for the child to drive the parent's or guardian's automobile
16 without being accompanied by an adult.
17 d. The child has:
18 (1) Completed a course of classroom instruction and a course of
19 behind-the-wheel instruction acceptable to the director; or
20 (2) Successfully completed a course at an approved commercial driver
21 training school.

22 The parent or guardian at all times is responsible for any and all damages growing
23 out of the negligent operation of a motor vehicle by any such child. The provisions
24 of this subsection do not authorize the child to drive a commercial truck, motorbus,
25 or taxicab except the holder of a class D license, fourteen or fifteen years of age,
26 may drive a farm motor vehicle having a gross weight of fifty thousand pounds
27 [22679.62 kilograms] when used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery,
28 or farm supplies to or from a farm when so operated within one hundred fifty miles
29 [241.40 kilometers] of the driver's farm.

30 4. The director may suspend or revoke the license upon receiving satisfactory
31 evidence of any violation of the restrictions ~~of such license suspend or revoke the~~

~~same but the.~~ The licensee is entitled to a hearing as upon a suspension or revocation under this chapter.

5. It is a class B misdemeanor for any person to operate a motor vehicle in any manner in violation of the restrictions imposed in a restricted license issued to that person other than restrictions imposed under subsection 6. If the restricted license was issued under section 39-06.1-11 and the underlying suspension was imposed for a violation of section 39-08-01 or equivalent ordinance, or is governed by chapter 39-20, punishment is as provided in subsection 2 of section 39-06-42 and upon receiving notice of the conviction the director shall revoke, without opportunity for hearing, the licensee's restricted license and shall extend the underlying suspension for a like period of not more than one year. The director may not issue a restricted license for the extended period of suspension imposed under this subsection. If the conviction referred to in this section is reversed by an appellate court, the director shall restore the person to the status held by the person ~~prior to~~ before the conviction, including restoration of driving privileges if appropriate.

6. A restricted license issued under subsection 3 to a child at least fourteen years of age to operate a parent's or guardian's automobile authorizes the licenseholder to drive the type or class of motor vehicle specified on the restricted license only under the following conditions:

- a. A restricted licenseholder must be in possession of the license while operating the motor vehicle.
- b. An individual holding a restricted driver's license driving a motor vehicle may not carry more passengers than the vehicle manufacturer's suggested passenger capacity.
- c. An individual holding a restricted driver's license may not use a portable telecommunications device while operating the motor vehicle.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 39-08-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-08-03. Reckless driving - Aggravated reckless driving - Penalty. ~~Any person~~

1. An individual is guilty of reckless driving if the ~~person~~ individual drives a vehicle:

- ~~4-~~ a. Recklessly in disregard of the rights or safety of others; ~~or~~

- 1 ~~2.~~ **b.** Without due caution and circumspection and at a speed or in a manner so as
2 to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or the property of another; or
3 **c.** While using a device that is portable for the device's intended use and which
4 while in the vehicle requires the individual to remove a digit on the hand of
5 that individual from the steering wheel for use of the device.
- 6 ~~Except as otherwise herein provided, any person~~
- 7 **2.** An individual violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a class B
8 misdemeanor. Any person who, unless by reason of reckless driving as herein
9 defined, the individual causes and inflicts bodily injury upon the person of another
10 individual, then the individual is guilty of aggravated reckless driving, and is guilty
11 of a class A misdemeanor. In either case, the minimum fine is one hundred
12 dollars.