Session of 2021

SENATE BILL No. 25

By Committee on Transportation

1-13

AN ACT concerning the regulation of traffic; prohibiting the use of a mobile telephone while operating in a school zone or in a road construction zone or by individuals under 18 years of age; amending K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 8-2118 and repealing the existing section; also repealing K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 8-2118c.

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) No person under the age of 18 years of age shall use a mobile telephone while operating a motor vehicle.

- (b) No person shall use a mobile telephone while operating a motor vehicle in a school zone at a time when a reduced speed limit is enforced as established by K.S.A. 8-1560(a) or 8-1560e, and amendments thereto, or in a road construction zone, as that term is defined in K.S.A. 8-1458a, and amendments thereto.
 - (c) The provisions of subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to:
- (1) A law enforcement officer or emergency service personnel acting within the course and scope of the law enforcement officer's or emergency service personnel's employment; or
 - (2) a mobile telephone that is being used with a hands-free device.
- (d) The provisions of subsections (a) or (b) shall not prohibit a person from using a mobile telephone while operating a motor vehicle that would otherwise violate subsections (a) or
 - (b) to:
 - (1) Report current or ongoing illegal activity to law enforcement;
 - (2) prevent imminent injury to a person or property;
 - (3) summon medical or other emergency assistance; or
- (4) relay information between a transit or for-hire operator and the operator's dispatcher, if the device is permanently affixed to the motor vehicle.
- (e) Holding a mobile telephone shall constitute prima facie evidence of a violation of:
 - (1) Subsection (a) for persons under the age of 18 years of age; or
- (2) subsection (b) for persons operating a motor vehicle in a school-zone or a road construction zone.
- (f) As used in this section, "hands-free device" means speakerphone capability or a telephone attachment or other piece of equipment,

Proposed Amendments 2021 Senate Bill No. 25 Prepared by: Office of Revisor of Statutes

Holding phone

holding of a mobile telephone to the ear of a person

hold a mobile telephone to the ear of the person

(2) a person operating a motor vehicle while such vehicle is lawfully parked; or

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Renumber subsections accordingly

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regardless of whether or not the hands-free device is permanently installed in the motor vehicle, that allows use of the mobile telephone without use of either of the operator's hands.

- (g) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to the uniform act regulating traffic on highways.
- Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 8-2118 is hereby amended to read as follows: 8-2118. (a) A person charged with a traffic infraction shall, except as provided in subsection (b), appear at the place and time specified in the notice to appear. If the person enters an appearance, waives right to trial, pleads guilty or no contest, the fine shall be no greater than that specified in the uniform fine schedule in subsection (c) and court costs shall be taxed as provided by law.
- (b) Prior to the time specified in the notice to appear, a person charged with a traffic infraction may enter a written appearance, waive right to trial, plead guilty or no contest and pay the fine for the violation as specified in the uniform fine schedule in subsection (c) and court costs provided by law. Payment may be made in any manner accepted by the court. The traffic citation shall not have been complied with if the payment is not honored for any reason, or if the fine and court costs are not paid in full. When a person charged with a traffic infraction makes payment without executing a written waiver of right to trial and plea of guilty or no contest, the payment shall be deemed such an appearance, waiver of right to trial and plea of no contest.
- (c) The following uniform fine schedule shall apply uniformly throughout the state but shall not limit the fine that may be imposed following a court appearance, except an appearance made for the purpose of pleading and payment as permitted by subsection (a). The description of offense contained in the following uniform fine schedule is for reference only and is not a legal definition.

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)	Description of Offense	Statute	Fine
	Unsafe speed for prevailing	8-1557	\$75
	conditions		
	Exceeding maximum speed	8-1558	1-10 mph over the
	limit; or speeding in zone	to	limit, \$45
,	posted by the state depart-	8-1560	
)	ment of transportation; or	8-1560a	11-20 mph over the
•	speeding in locally posted	or	limit, \$45 plus \$6
,	zone	8-1560b	per mph over 10
)			mph over the limit;
)			21-30 mph over the
			limit, \$105 plus \$9
,			per mph over 20
			mph over the limit;

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