

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2012

906T0860

SENATE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by: _____

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to prohibit certain minors from using wireless
2 communication devices while operating motor vehicles upon the public highways.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. That § 32-14-1 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SUBDIVISION to read as
5 follows:

6 "Wireless communication device," any wireless electronic communication device that
7 provides for voice or data communication between two or more parties, including a mobile or
8 cellular telephone, a text messaging device, a personal digital assistant that sends or receives
9 messages, an audio-video player that sends or receives messages, or a laptop computer.

10 Section 2. That § 32-12-11 be amended to read as follows:

11 32-12-11. Any person who is at least fourteen years of age but less than eighteen years of
12 age applying for a South Dakota operator's license, restricted minor's permit, or instruction
13 permit who does not currently hold an operator's license, motorcycle operator's license,
14 restricted minor's permit, motorcycle restricted minor's permit, instruction permit, or motorcycle
15 instruction permit that has been valid continuously for one hundred eighty days, shall apply to
16 the Department of Public Safety for an instruction permit which shall be held for a minimum



1 of one hundred eighty continuous days. If an applicant holds an instruction permit that has been
2 expired for thirty days or less, the department shall waive the knowledge test for the renewal of
3 the instruction permit or to upgrade to an operator's license, motorcycle operator's license,
4 restricted minor's permit or motorcycle restricted minor's permit. If the licensee applies and
5 makes payment of the required fee thirty-one or more days after the expiration date of the
6 license, the licensee shall take the knowledge test as required by § 32-12-4 and shall be issued
7 an instruction permit upon passage of the test. The department may, after the applicant has
8 successfully passed all parts of the examination other than the driving test and paid a fee which
9 is equal in amount to the fee prescribed for a license in § 32-12-16, issue to the applicant an
10 instruction permit. The instruction permit entitles the applicant, while having the permit in the
11 applicant's immediate possession, to drive a motor vehicle upon the public highways for a
12 period of one year during the hours of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. if accompanied by a person holding a
13 valid operator's license who is at least eighteen years of age, has had at least one year of driving
14 experience, and who is occupying a seat beside the applicant. The applicant is entitled to drive
15 a motor vehicle upon the public highways during the hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. if the motor
16 vehicle is being operated under the direction of the applicant's parent or guardian who is
17 occupying a seat beside the applicant. No holder of an instruction permit may use any type of
18 wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle upon the public highways. The
19 holder of an instruction permit may apply for a restricted minor's permit or operator's license
20 after holding a valid instruction permit for one hundred eighty continuous days.

21 Section 3. That § 32-12-12 be amended to read as follows:

22 32-12-12. A restricted minor's permit may be issued, upon application and payment of the
23 proper fees as provided in § 32-12-16, to a minor at least fourteen years of age but less than
24 eighteen years of age who has successfully passed all applicable tests and completed the

1 requirements of an instruction permit as provided in § 32-12-11 or 32-12-11.1 and has not been
2 convicted of a traffic violation during the past six months. For any such minor who has
3 successfully completed a driver education course that has been approved by the Department of
4 Education or a driver education course that the secretary of the department of public safety has
5 determined has been approved by a state government agency in another state, the required
6 minimum time period for holding the instruction permit in order to qualify for the restricted
7 minor's permit is ninety continuous days. A restricted minor's permit entitles the holder, while
8 having the permit in immediate physical possession, to operate a motor vehicle during the hours
9 of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. standard time if the motor vehicle is being operated with the permission of
10 the holder's parent or guardian and during the hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. if the motor vehicle is
11 being operated under the direction of the holder's parent or guardian who is occupying a seat
12 beside the holder. The restrictions as to time of operation and operation under the direction of
13 a parent or guardian do not apply to the holder of a valid restricted minor's permit operating a
14 self-propelled agricultural machine which is not subject to registration under chapter 32-5. No
15 holder of an restricted minor's permit may use any type of wireless communication device while
16 operating a motor vehicle upon the public highways.