

# NEVADA'S LAW REGARDING THE USE OF TWO-WAY RADIOS WHILE DRIVING (PERTINANT PORTIONS HIGHLIGHTED IN RED)

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**NRS 484B.165 Using handheld wireless communications device to type or enter text, send or read data, engage in nonvoice communication or engage in voice communications without use of hands-free device unlawful; exceptions; penalty.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person shall not, while operating a motor vehicle on a highway in this State:

(a) Manually type or enter text into a cellular telephone or other handheld wireless communications device, or send or read data using any such device to access or search the Internet or to engage in nonvoice communications with another person, including, without limitation, texting, electronic messaging and instant messaging.

(b) Use a cellular telephone or other handheld wireless communications device to engage in voice communications with another person, unless the device is used with an accessory which allows the person to communicate without using his or her hands, other than to activate, deactivate or initiate a feature or function on the device.

2. The provisions of this section do not apply to:

(a) A paid or volunteer firefighter, emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic, ambulance attendant or other person trained to provide emergency medical services who is acting within the course and scope of his or her employment.

(b) A law enforcement officer or any person designated by a sheriff or chief of police or the Director of the Department of Public Safety who is acting within the course and scope of his or her employment.

(c) A person who is reporting a medical emergency, a safety hazard or criminal activity or who is requesting assistance relating to a medical emergency, a safety hazard or criminal activity.

(d) A person who is responding to a situation requiring immediate action to protect the health, welfare or safety of the driver or another person and stopping the vehicle would be inadvisable, impractical or dangerous.

(e) A person who is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as an amateur radio operator and who is providing a communication service in connection with an actual or impending disaster or emergency, participating in a drill, test, or other exercise in preparation for a disaster or emergency or otherwise communicating public information.

(f) An employee or contractor of a public utility who uses a handheld wireless communications device:

(1) That has been provided by the public utility; and

(2) While responding to a dispatch by the public utility to respond to an

emergency, including, without limitation, a response to a power outage or an interruption in utility service.

3. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the use of a voice-operated global positioning or navigation system that is affixed to the vehicle.

4. A person who violates any provision of subsection 1 is guilty of a misdemeanor and:

(a) For the first offense within the immediately preceding 7 years, shall pay a fine of \$50.

(b) For the second offense within the immediately preceding 7 years, shall pay a fine of \$100.

(c) For the third or subsequent offense within the immediately preceding 7 years, shall pay a fine of \$250.

5. A person who violates any provision of subsection 1 may be subject to the additional penalty set forth in [NRS 484B.130](#).

6. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall not treat a first violation of this section in the manner statutorily required for a moving traffic violation.

7. For the purposes of this section, a person shall be deemed not to be operating a motor vehicle if the motor vehicle is driven autonomously through the use of artificial-intelligence software and the autonomous operation of the motor vehicle is authorized by law.

8. **As used in this section:**

(a) “Handheld wireless communications device” means a handheld device for the transfer of information without the use of electrical conductors or wires and includes, without limitation, a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant, a pager and a text messaging device. The term does not include a device used for two-way radio communications if:

(1) The person using the device has a license to operate the device, if required; and

(2) All the controls for operating the device, other than the microphone and a control to speak into the microphone, are located on a unit which is used to transmit and receive communications and which is separate from the microphone and is not intended to be held.

(b) “Public utility” means a supplier of electricity or natural gas or a provider of telecommunications service for public use who is subject to regulation by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada.

(Added to NRS by [2011, 3647](#); A [2013, 959](#))