

4879

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 9, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. ORTIZ -- read once and referred to the Committee
on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to prohibiting
the use of head-mounted portable electronic devices while driving

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision 2 and subdivision 4
2 of section 1225-d of the vehicle and traffic law, paragraphs (a) and (b)
3 of subdivision 2 as amended by section 8 and subdivision 4 as amended by
4 section 10 of part C of chapter 58 of the laws of 2013, are amended to
5 read as follows:
6 (a) "Portable electronic device" shall mean any hand-held OR
7 HEAD-MOUNTED mobile telephone, as defined by subdivision one of section
8 twelve hundred twenty-five-c of this article, personal digital assistant
9 (PDA), handheld device with mobile data access, laptop computer, pager,
10 broadband personal communication device, two-way messaging device, elec-
11 tronic game, [or] portable computing device, or any other electronic
12 device when used to input, write, send, receive, or read text for pres-
13 ent or future communication.
14 (b) "Using" shall mean holding OR WEARING a portable electronic device
15 while viewing, taking or transmitting images, playing games, or, for the
16 purpose of present or future communication: performing a command or
17 request to access a world wide web page, composing, sending, reading,
18 viewing, accessing, browsing, transmitting, saving or retrieving e-mail,
19 text messages, instant messages, or other electronic data.
20 4. A person who holds OR WEARS a portable electronic device in a
21 conspicuous manner while operating a motor vehicle or while operating a
22 commercial motor vehicle on a public highway including while temporarily
23 stationary because of traffic, a traffic control device, or other momen-
24 tary delays but not including when such commercial motor vehicle is
25 stopped at the side of, or off, a public highway in a location where

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

LBD02547-01-5

1 such vehicle is not otherwise prohibited from stopping by law, rule,
2 regulation or any lawful order or direction of a police officer is
3 presumed to be using such device, except that a person operating a
4 commercial motor vehicle while using a portable electronic device when
5 such vehicle is stopped at the side of, or off, a public highway in a
6 location where such vehicle is not otherwise prohibited from stopping by
7 law, rule, regulation or any lawful order or direction of a police offi-
8 cer shall not be presumed to be using such device. The presumption
9 established by this subdivision is rebuttable by evidence tending to
10 show that the operator was not using the device within the meaning of
11 this section.

12 S 2. Subdivision 2 of section 1225-d of the vehicle and traffic law is
13 amended by adding a new paragraph (e) to read as follows:

14 (E) "HEAD-MOUNTED" SHALL MEAN WEARING A PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE ON
15 THE HEAD, EARS AND NOSE AS EYEGLASSES OR EYEWEAR. COMMON HEAD-MOUNTED
16 PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, GOOGLE
17 GLASS AND GOOGLE GLASSES, AND OTHER SIMILAR TECHNOLOGIES OR DEVICES.

18 S 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
19 have become a law.