

Use of wireless devices in school zones

1316.306 School and work zones; prohibition on the use of a wireless communications device in a handheld manner.—

(1) For purposes of this section, the term “wireless communications device” has the same meaning as provided in s. 316.305(3)(a). The term includes, but is not limited to, a cell phone, a tablet, a laptop, a two-way messaging device, or an electronic game that is used or capable of being used in a handheld manner. The term does not include a safety, security, or convenience feature built into a motor vehicle which does not require the use of a handheld device.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature to:

(a) Improve roadway safety in school and work zones for all vehicle operators, vehicle passengers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and other road users.

(b) Prevent crashes related to the act of driving while using a wireless communications device in a handheld manner when operating a motor vehicle while the vehicle is in motion.

(c) Reduce injuries, deaths, property damage, health care costs, health insurance rates, and automobile insurance rates related to motor vehicle crashes.

(d) Authorize law enforcement officers to stop motor vehicles and issue citations to persons who are driving in school or work zones while using a wireless communications device in a handheld manner as provided in subsection (3).

(3)(a)1. A person may not operate a motor vehicle while using a wireless communications device in a handheld manner in a designated school crossing, school zone, or work zone area as defined in 2s. 316.003(104). This subparagraph shall only be applicable to work zone areas if construction personnel are present or are operating equipment on the road or immediately adjacent to the work zone area. For the purposes of this paragraph, a motor vehicle that is stationary is not being operated and is not subject to the prohibition in this paragraph.

2.a. During the period from October 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019, a law enforcement officer may stop motor vehicles to issue verbal or written warnings to persons who are in violation of subparagraph 1. for the purposes of informing and educating such persons of this section. This sub-subparagraph shall stand repealed on October 1, 2020.

b. Effective January 1, 2020, a law enforcement officer may stop motor vehicles and issue citations to persons who are driving while using a wireless communications device in a handheld manner in violation of subparagraph 1

Thank you