1	SENATE BILL 171
2	52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Cliff R. Pirtle
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10	AN ACT
11	RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES; PROHIBITING THE USE
12	OF A HANDHELD MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICE WHILE DRIVING A
13	COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE; DEFINING TEXTING WHILE DRIVING AND
14	USE OF A HANDHELD MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICE AS SERIOUS
15	TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS; DISQUALIFYING A PERSON FROM DRIVING A
16	COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE FOR LIFE IF CONVICTED OF USING ANY
17	MOTOR VEHICLE IN THE COMMISSION OF CERTAIN FELONIES; ADDING A
18	PENALTY ASSESSMENT MISDEMEANOR.
19	
20	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:
21	SECTION 1. A new section of the Motor Vehicle Code is
22	enacted to read:
23	"[ <u>NEW MATERIAL</u> ] USE OF A HANDHELD MOBILE COMMUNICATION
24	DEVICE WHILE DRIVING A COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE
25	A. A person shall not use a handheld mobile
	.202896.2SA

communication device for any purpose while driving a commercial motor vehicle except to summon medical or other emergency help or unless that device is an amateur radio and the driver holds a valid amateur radio operator license issued by the federal communications commission. This prohibition is a separate prohibition from the prohibition on texting while driving pursuant to Section 66-7-374 NMSA 1978.

B. The provisions of this section shall not be construed as authorizing the seizure or forfeiture of a handheld mobile communication device. Unless otherwise provided by law, the handheld mobile communication device used in the violation of the provisions of this section is not subject to search by a law enforcement officer during a traffic stop made pursuant to the provisions of this section.

C. As used in this section:

(1) "commercial motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the motor vehicle:

(a) has a gross combination weight rating of more than twenty-six thousand pounds inclusive of a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than ten thousand pounds;

(b) has a gross vehicle weight rating of more than twenty-six thousand pounds;

(c) is designed to transport sixteen or

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more passengers, including the driver; or

(d) is of any size and is used in the transportation of hazardous materials as provided in 49 CFR Part 383.5;

(2) "driving" means being in actual physical control of a commercial motor vehicle on a highway or street and includes being temporarily stopped because of traffic, a traffic light or stop sign or otherwise; but "driving" excludes a commercial motor vehicle when the vehicle has pulled over to the side of or off of an active roadway and has stopped at a location in which it can safely remain stationary;

(3) "handheld mobile communication device" means a wireless communication device that is designed to receive and transmit text, voice or image messages; provided, however, that "handheld mobile communication device" excludes global positioning or navigation systems; citizen band radios with a handheld microphone operated by a single button or lever; devices that are physically or electronically integrated into a commercial motor vehicle; and voice-operated or hands-free devices that allow the user to compose, send or read a text message or talk without the use of a hand, except to activate, deactivate or initiate a feature or function; and

(4) "text message" means a digital communication transmitted or intended to be transmitted between communication devices and includes electronic mail, an instant .202896.2SA

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1 message, a text or image communication and a command or request 2 to an internet site; but "text message" excludes communications 3 through the use of a computer-aided dispatch service by law enforcement or rescue personnel." 4 SECTION 2. Section 66-5-54 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989, 5 Chapter 14, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read: 6 "66-5-54. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the New Mexico 7 Commercial Driver's License Act: 8 9 Α. "commerce" means: trade, traffic or transportation within 10 (1) the jurisdiction of the United States between a place in New 11 12 Mexico and a place outside of New Mexico, including a place 13 outside of the United States; and 14 (2) trade, traffic or transportation in the United States that affects any trade, traffic or transportation 15 described in Paragraph (1) of this subsection; 16 "commercial driver's license holder" means an 17 Β. individual to whom a license has been issued by a state or other 18 19 jurisdiction, in accordance with the standards found in 49 CFR 20 Part 383, as amended or renumbered, that authorizes the individual to operate a commercial motor vehicle; 21 "commercial driver's license information system" C. 22 means the information system created pursuant to the federal 23 Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 that contains 24 25 information pertaining to operators of commercial motor .202896.2SA - 4 -

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"commercial motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle 2 D. or combination of motor vehicles used in commerce to transport 3 passengers or property if the motor vehicle: 4 (1) has a gross combination weight rating of 5 more than twenty-six thousand pounds inclusive of a towed unit 6 7 with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than ten thousand pounds; 8 9 (2) has a gross vehicle weight rating of more than twenty-six thousand pounds; 10 is designed to transport sixteen or more (3) 11 12 passengers, including the driver; or is of any size and is used in the (4) 13 transportation of hazardous materials, as [hazardous materials 14 are defined] provided in 49 CFR Part 383.5; 15 "conviction" means: Ε. 16 an unvacated adjudication of guilt or a 17 (1)determination that a person has violated or failed to comply 18 19 with the law by: 20 (a) a court of original jurisdiction; or an authorized administrative (b) 21 tribunal; 22 (2) an unvacated forfeiture of bail or 23 collateral deposited to secure a person's appearance in court; 24 a plea of guilty or nolo contendere 25 (3) .202896.2SA - 5 -

1 accepted by the court; 2 (4) the payment of a fine or court cost; a violation of a condition of release 3 (5) without bail, regardless of whether the payment is rebated, 4 suspended or probated; 5 an assignment to a diversion program or a 6 (6) 7 driver improvement school; or 8 a conditional discharge as provided in (7) 9 Section 31-20-13 NMSA 1978; F. "director" means the director of the motor 10 vehicle division of the department; 11 12 G. "disqualification" means: a suspension, revocation or cancellation 13 (1)of a commercial driver's license by the state or jurisdiction 14 that issued the commercial driver's license; 15 (2) a withdrawal of a person's privileges to 16 drive a commercial motor vehicle by a state or other 17 jurisdiction as the result of a violation of state or local law 18 relating to motor vehicle control other than a parking, vehicle 19 20 weight or vehicle defect violation; and a determination by the federal motor (3) 21 carrier safety administration that a person is not qualified to 22 operate a motor vehicle; 23 "division" means the motor vehicle division of н. 24 the department; 25 .202896.2SA

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1 I. "driving a commercial motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol" means: 2 driving a commercial motor vehicle while 3 (1) the driver has an alcohol concentration in the driver's blood or 4 breath of four one hundredths or more: 5 driving a commercial motor vehicle while 6 (2) 7 the driver is under the influence of intoxicating liquor; or refusal to submit to chemical tests 8 (3) 9 administered pursuant to Section 66-8-107 NMSA 1978; "employee" means an operator of a commercial 10 J. motor vehicle, including full-time, regularly employed drivers; 11 12 casual, intermittent or occasional drivers; leased drivers; and independent owner-operator contractors, while in the course of 13 14 operating a commercial motor vehicle, who is either directly employed by or under lease to an employer; 15 "employer" means a person, including the United Κ. 16 States, a state and a political subdivision of a state or their 17 agencies or instrumentalities, that owns or leases a commercial 18 19 motor vehicle or assigns employees to operate such a vehicle; 20 τ. "fatality" means the death of a person as a result of a motor vehicle accident; 21 М. "gross combination weight rating" means the value 22 specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a 23 combination vehicle. In the absence of a value specified by the 24 manufacturer, gross combination weight rating shall be 25

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determined by adding the gross vehicle weight rating of the 2 power unit and the total weight of the towed unit or units and 3 any load thereon;

"gross vehicle weight rating" means the value N. specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle:

"imminent hazard" means a condition that presents 0. a substantial likelihood that death, serious illness, severe personal injury or a substantial endangerment to health, property or the environment will occur before the reasonable foreseeable completion date of a formal proceeding to lessen the risk of that death, illness, injury or endangerment;

"noncommercial motor vehicle" means a motor Ρ. vehicle or combination of motor vehicles that is not a commercial motor vehicle;

"nonresident commercial driver's license" means a 0. commercial driver's license issued by another state to a person domiciled in that state or by a foreign country to a person domiciled in that country;

R. "out-of-service order" means a declaration by an authorized enforcement officer of a federal, state, Canadian, Mexican or local jurisdiction that a driver, a commercial motor vehicle or a motor carrier operation is temporarily prohibited from operating;

"railroad-highway grade crossing violation" means S. .202896.2SA

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1 a violation of a provision of Section 66-7-341 or 66-7-343 NMSA 2 1978 or a violation of federal or local law, <u>ordinance</u> or rule 3 pertaining to stopping at or crossing a railroad-highway grade 4 crossing;

5 T. "serious traffic violation" means conviction of
6 any of the following if committed when operating a motor
7 vehicle:

8 (1) speed of fifteen miles or more per hour
9 above the posted limits;

10 (2) reckless driving as defined by Section
11 66-8-113 NMSA 1978 or a municipal ordinance or the law of
12 another state;

13 (3) homicide by vehicle, as defined in Section 14 66-8-101 NMSA 1978;

15 (4) injury to pregnant woman by vehicle as 16 defined in Section 66-8-101.1 NMSA 1978 or a municipal ordinance 17 or the law of another state;

(5) any other violation of law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, that the secretary determines by regulation to be a serious traffic violation. "Serious traffic violation" does not include a vehicle weight or vehicle defect violation;

(6) improper or erratic lane changes in violation of Section 66-7-317 NMSA 1978;

(7) following another vehicle too closely in

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1	violation of Section 66-7-318 NMSA 1978;	
2	(8) texting while driving in violation of	
3	Section 66-7-374 NMSA 1978 or a municipal ordinance;	
4	(9) use of a handheld mobile communication	
5	device while driving a commercial motor vehicle in violation of	
6	Section 1 of this 2016 act or a municipal ordinance;	
7	[ <del>(8)</del> ] <u>(10)</u> directly or indirectly causing	
8	death or great bodily injury to a human being in the unlawful	
9	operation of a motor vehicle in violation of Section 66-8-101	
10	NMSA 1978;	
11	[ <del>(9)</del> ] <u>(11)</u> driving a commercial motor vehicle	
12	without possession of a commercial driver's license in violation	
13	of Section 66-5-59 NMSA 1978;	
14	[ <del>(10)</del> ] <u>(12)</u> driving a commercial motor vehicle	
15	without the proper class of commercial driver's license and	
16	endorsements pursuant to Section 66-5-65 NMSA 1978 and the Motor	
17	Carrier Safety Act for the specific vehicle group operated or	
18	for the passengers or type of cargo transported; or	
19	[ <del>(11)</del> ] <u>(13)</u> driving a commercial motor vehicle	
20	without obtaining a commercial driver's license in violation of	
21	Section 66-5-59 NMSA 1978; and	
22	U. "state of domicile" means the state in which a	
23	person has a true, fixed and permanent home and principal	
24	residence and to which the person has the intention of returning	
25	whenever the person has been absent from that state."	
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1 SECTION 3. Section 66-5-68 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989, Chapter 14, Section 17, as amended) is amended to read: 2 3 "66-5-68. DISQUALIFICATION .--4 Α. The department shall disqualify a person from 5 driving a commercial motor vehicle for at least thirty days if the federal motor carrier safety administration reports to the 6 7 division that the person poses an imminent hazard. 8 The department shall disqualify a person who Β. 9 holds a commercial driver's license or who is required to hold a 10 commercial driver's license from driving a commercial motor vehicle for a period of not less than one year, which shall run 11 12 concurrently with any revocation or suspension action for the 13 same offense, if the person: 14 (1)refuses to submit to a chemical test when requested pursuant to the provisions of the Implied Consent Act; 15 is twenty-one years of age or more and 16 (2) submits to chemical testing pursuant to the Implied Consent Act 17 18 and the test results indicate an alcohol concentration of eight 19 one hundredths or more; 20 (3) submits to chemical testing pursuant to the Implied Consent Act and the test results indicate an alcohol 21 concentration of four one hundredths or more if the person is 22 driving a commercial motor vehicle; 23 (4) is less than twenty-one years of age and 24 25 submits to chemical testing pursuant to the Implied Consent Act .202896.2SA

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1 and the test results indicate an alcohol concentration of two 2 one hundredths or more: or is convicted of a violation of: 3 (5) driving a motor vehicle while under 4 (a) 5 the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs in violation of Section 66-8-102 NMSA 1978, an ordinance of a municipality of 6 7 this state or the law of another state; 8 (b) leaving the scene of an accident 9 involving a commercial motor vehicle driven by the person in violation of Section 66-7-201 NMSA 1978 or an ordinance of a 10 municipality of this state or the law of another state; 11 12 (c) using a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony; 13 14 (d) driving a commercial motor vehicle after the driver's commercial driver's license is revoked, 15 suspended, disqualified or canceled for violations while 16 operating a commercial motor vehicle; or 17 (e) causing a fatality in the unlawful 18 19 operation of a motor vehicle pursuant to Section 66-8-101 NMSA 20 1978. С. The department shall disqualify a person from 21 driving a commercial motor vehicle for a period of not less than 22 three years if any of the violations specified in Subsection B 23 of this section occur while transporting a hazardous material 24 required to be placarded. 25 .202896.2SA - 12 -

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1 D. The department shall disqualify a person from 2 driving a commercial motor vehicle for life if convicted of two or more violations of any of the offenses specified in 3 Subsection B of this section, or any combination of those 4 offenses, arising from two or more separate incidents, but the 5 secretary may issue [regulations] rules establishing guidelines, 6 7 including conditions, under which a disqualification for life under this subsection may be reduced to a period of not less 8 9 than ten years. This subsection applies only to those offenses committed after July 1, 1989. 10

E. The department shall disqualify a person from driving a commercial motor vehicle for life if the person [uses a commercial] is convicted of using a motor vehicle in the commission of any felony involving the manufacture, distribution or dispensing of a controlled substance [or the possession with intent to manufacture, distribute or dispense a controlled substance].

F. The department shall disqualify a person from driving a commercial motor vehicle for a period of not less than sixty days if convicted of two serious traffic violations or one hundred twenty days if convicted of three serious traffic violations, if the violations were committed while driving a commercial motor vehicle, arising from separate incidents occurring within a three-year period.

G. The department shall disqualify a person from .202896.2SA

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1 driving a commercial motor vehicle for a period of: 2 not less than one hundred eighty days nor (1)3 more than two years if the person is convicted of a first violation of an out-of-service order while transporting 4 hazardous materials required to be placarded pursuant to the 5 federal Hazardous Materials Transportation Act or while 6 7 operating a motor vehicle designed to transport more than 8 fifteen passengers, including the driver; 9 (2) not more than one year if the person is convicted of a first violation of an out-of-service order; or 10 (3) not less than three years nor more than 11 12 five years if, during any ten-year period, the person is convicted of any subsequent violations of out-of-service orders, 13 14 in separate incidents, while transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded pursuant to that act or while operating 15 a motor vehicle designed to transport more than fifteen 16 passengers, including the driver. 17 The department shall disqualify a person from н. 18 19 driving a commercial motor vehicle for sixty days if: 20 (1)the person has been convicted of two serious traffic violations in separate incidents within a three-21 year period; and 22 (2) the second conviction results in 23 revocation, cancellation or suspension of the person's 24 commercial driver's license or noncommercial motor vehicle 25 .202896.2SA

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1 driving privileges for sixty days.

2 I. The department shall disgualify a person from 3 driving a commercial motor vehicle for one hundred twenty days, in addition to any other period of disqualification, if: 4 (1)the person has been convicted of more than 5 two serious traffic violations within a three-year period; and 6 7 (2)the third or a subsequent conviction results in the revocation, cancellation or suspension of the 8 9 person's commercial driver's license or noncommercial motor vehicle driving privileges. 10 J. When a person is disqualified from driving a 11 12 commercial motor vehicle, any commercial driver's license held by that person is invalidated without a separate proceeding of 13 any kind and the driver is not eligible to apply for a 14 commercial driver's license until the period of time for which 15 the driver was disgualified has elapsed. 16 The department shall disqualify a person from 17 Κ. driving a commercial motor vehicle for not less than: 18 19 (1)sixty days if the person is convicted of a 20 first violation of a railroad-highway grade crossing violation; one hundred twenty days if, during any (2) 21 three-year period, the person is convicted of a second railroad-22 highway grade crossing violation in a separate incident; and 23 one year if, during any three-year period, (3) 24 the person is convicted of a third or subsequent railroad-25 .202896.2SA

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highway grade crossing violation in a separate incident.

L. After disqualifying, suspending, revoking or canceling a commercial driver's license, the department shall, within ten days, update its records to reflect that action. After disqualifying, suspending, revoking or canceling a nonresident commercial driver's privileges, the department shall, within ten days, notify the licensing authority of the state that issued the commercial driver's license.

M. When disqualifying, suspending, revoking or canceling a commercial driver's license, the department shall treat a conviction received in another state in the same manner as if it was received in this state.

N. The department shall post and enforce any disqualification sent by the federal motor carrier safety administration to the department that indicates that a commercial motor vehicle driver poses an imminent hazard.

0. The federal transportation security administration of the department of homeland security shall provide for an appeal of a disqualification for a commercial driver's license hazardous materials endorsement on the basis of a background check, and the department shall provide to a hazardous materials applicant a copy of the procedures established by the transportation security administration, on request, at the time of application.

P. New Mexico shall conform to the federal

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1 transportation security administration of the department of 2 homeland security rules and shall "look back" or review a maximum of seven years for a background check." 3 SECTION 4. Section 66-8-116 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, 4 5 Chapter 35, Section 524, as amended) is amended to read: "66-8-116. PENALTY ASSESSMENT MISDEMEANORS --6 7 DEFINITION--SCHEDULE OF ASSESSMENTS.--8 As used in the Motor Vehicle Code, "penalty Α. 9 assessment misdemeanor" means violation of any of the following listed sections of the NMSA 1978 for which, except as provided 10 11 in Subsections D and E of this section, the listed penalty 12 assessment is established: COMMON NAME OF OFFENSE 13 SECTION VIOLATED PENALTY 14 ASSESSMENT Improper display of 15 \$ 25.00 16 registration plate 66-3-18 Failure to notify of 17 25.00 18 change of name or address 66-3-23 19 Lost or damaged registration, 20 plate or title 66-3-24 20.00 Permitting unauthorized 21 minor to drive 66-5-40 50.00 22 Permitting unauthorized 23 25.00 person to drive 66-5-41 24 10.00 25 Failure to obey sign 66-7-104 .202896.2SA - 17 -

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1	Failure to obey signal 66-7-105	10.00
1 2		10.00
2	Speeding 66-7-301 (1) up to and including	
4	ten miles an hour	
4 5		15.00
	over the speed limit	13.00
6	(2) from eleven up to	
7	and including fifteen	
8	miles an hour	
9	over the speed limit	30.00
10	(3) from sixteen up to	
11	and including twenty	
12	miles an hour over the	
13	speed limit	65.00
14	(4) from twenty-one up to	
15	and including twenty-five	
16	miles an hour	
17	over the speed limit	100.00
18	(5) from twenty-six up to	
19	and including thirty	
20	miles an hour over the	
21	speed limit	125.00
22	(6) from thirty-one up to	
23	and including thirty-five	
24	miles an hour over the	
25	speed limit	150.00
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1	(7) more than thirty-five		
2	miles an hour over the		
3	speed limit		200.00
4	Unfastened safety belt	66-7-372	25.00
5	Child not in restrain	z device	
6	or seat belt	66-7-369	25.00
7	Minimum speed	66-7-305	10.00
8	Speeding	66-7-306	15.00
9	Improper starting	66-7-324	10.00
10	Improper backing	66-7-354	10.00
11	Improper lane	66-7-308	10.00
12	Improper lane	66-7-313	10.00
13	Improper lane	66-7-316	10.00
14	Improper lane	66-7-317	10.00
15	Improper lane	66-7-319	10.00
16	Improper passing	66-7-309 through 66-7-312	10.00
17	Improper passing	66-7-315	10.00
18	Controlled access		
19	violation	66-7-320	10.00
20	Controlled access		
21	violation	66-7-321	10.00
22	Improper turning	66-7-322	10.00
23	Improper turning	66-7-323	10.00
24	Improper turning	66-7-325	10.00
25	Following too closely	66-7-318	10.00
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1	Failure to yield	66-7-328 through 66-7-331	10.00
2	Failure to yield	66-7-332	50.00
3	Failure to yield	66-7-332.1	25.00
4	Pedestrian violation	66-7-333	10.00
5	Pedestrian violation	66-7-340	10.00
6	Failure to stop	66-7-342 and 66-7-344	
7		through 66-7-346	10.00
8	Railroad-highway grade	2	
9	crossing violation	66-7-341 and 66-7-343	150.00
10	Passing school bus	66-7-347	100.00
11	Failure to signal	66-7-325 through 66-7-327	10.00
12	Failure to secure load	d 66-7-407	100.00
13	Operation without oversize-		
14	overweight permit	66-7-413	50.00
15	Transport of reducible	2	
16	load with special		
17	permit more than siz	x miles	
18	from a border cross:	ing 66-7-413	100.00
19	Improper equipment	66-3-801	
20		through 66-3-851	25.00
21	Improper equipment	66-3-901	20.00
22	Improper emergency		
23	signal	66-3-853 through 66-3-857	10.00
24	Minor on motorcycle		
25	without helmet	66-7-356	300.00
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1	Operation interference	66-7-357	50.00
2	Littering	66-7-364	300.00
3	Improper parking 66-7	-349 through 66-7-352	
4	and	66-7-353	5.00
5	Improper parking	66-3-852	5.00
6	Failure to dim lights	66-3-831	10.00
7	Riding in or towing		
8	occupied house trailer	66-7-366	5.00
9	Improper opening of doors	66-7-367	5.00
10	No slow-moving vehicle		
11	emblem or flashing		
12	amber light	66-3-887	5.00
13	Open container – first		
14	violation	66-8-138	25.00
15	Texting while driving -	[ <del>Section l of this</del>	
16	first violation	<del>2014 act</del> ] <u>66-7-374</u>	25.00
17	Texting while driving -	[ <del>Section l of this</del>	
18	subsequent violation	<del>2014 act</del> ] <u>66-7-374</u>	50.00
19	<u>Using a handheld mobile</u>		
20	communication device		
21	<u>while driving a</u>		
22	<u>commercial motor</u>	<u>Section l of this</u>	
23	<u>vehicle</u>	<u>2016 act</u>	25.00
24	<u>Using a handheld mobile</u>		
25	communication device		
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violation

vehicle - subsequent Section 1 of this

2016 act 50.00.

B. The term "penalty assessment misdemeanor" does not include a violation that has caused or contributed to the cause of an accident resulting in injury or death to a person.

C. When an alleged violator of a penalty assessment misdemeanor elects to accept a notice to appear in lieu of a notice of penalty assessment, a fine imposed upon later conviction shall not exceed the penalty assessment established for the particular penalty assessment misdemeanor and probation imposed upon a suspended or deferred sentence shall not exceed ninety days.

D. The penalty assessment for speeding in violation of Paragraph (4) of Subsection A of Section 66-7-301 NMSA 1978 is twice the penalty assessment established in Subsection A of this section for the equivalent miles per hour over the speed limit.

E. Upon a second conviction for operation without a permit for excessive size or weight pursuant to Section 66-7-413 NMSA 1978, the penalty assessment shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). Upon a third or subsequent conviction, the penalty assessment shall be five hundred dollars (\$500).

F. Upon a second conviction for transport of a .202896.2SA

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	1	reducible load with a permit for excessive size or weight
	2	pursuant to Subsection N of Section 66-7-413 NMSA 1978 more than
	3	six miles from a port-of-entry facility on the border with
	4	Mexico, the penalty assessment shall be five hundred dollars
	5	(\$500). Upon a third or subsequent conviction, the penalty
	6	assessment shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000)."
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