



LAWS OF ALASKA

2008

Source

SCS CSHB 88(JUD)

Chapter No.

AN ACT

Relating to televisions, monitors, portable computers, and similar devices in motor vehicles; relating to the definition of physical injury for the Alaska Uniform Vehicle Code; and providing for an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

AN ACT

1 Relating to televisions, monitors, portable computers, and similar devices in motor vehicles;
2 relating to the definition of physical injury for the Alaska Uniform Vehicle Code; and
3 providing for an effective date.

4

5 * **Section 1.** AS 28.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Sec. 28.35.161. Driving a motor vehicle with a screen device operating;**
7 **unlawful installation of television, monitor, or similar device.** (a) A person
8 commits the crime of driving with a screen device operating if

9 (1) the person is driving a motor vehicle;

10 (2) the vehicle has a television, video monitor, portable computer, or
11 any other similar means capable of providing a visual display that is in full view of a
12 driver in a normal driving position while the vehicle is in motion; and

13 (3) the monitor or visual display is operating while the person is
14 driving.

1 (b) A person may not install or alter equipment described in (a)(2) of this
2 section that allows the images to be viewed by the driver in a normal driving position
3 while the vehicle is in motion.

4 (c) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section do not apply to

5 (1) portable cellular telephones or personal data assistants being used
6 for verbal communication or displaying caller identification information;

7 (2) equipment that is displaying only

8 (A) audio equipment information, functions, and controls;

9 (B) vehicle information or controls related to speed, fuel level,
10 battery charge, and other vehicle safety or equipment information;

11 (C) navigation or global positioning;

12 (D) maps;

13 (E) visual information to

14 (i) enhance or supplement the driver's view forward,
15 behind, or to the sides of the motor vehicle for the purpose of
16 maneuvering the vehicle; or

17 (ii) allow the driver to monitor vehicle occupants seated
18 behind the driver;

19 (F) vehicle dispatching and response information for motor
20 vehicles providing emergency road service or roadside assistance;

21 (G) vehicle dispatching information for passenger transport or
22 freight or package delivery; or

23 (H) information for use in performing highway construction,
24 maintenance, or repair or data acquisition by the Department of Transportation
25 and Public Facilities or a municipality.

26 (d) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section do not apply to devices and
27 equipment installed in an emergency vehicle. In this subsection, "emergency vehicle"
28 means a police, fire, or emergency medical service vehicle.

29 (e) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under (b) of this section that
30 the equipment installed or altered includes a device that, when the motor vehicle is
31 being driven, disables the equipment for all uses except those described in (c) of this

1 section.

2 (f) A person who violates (a) of this section is guilty of

3 (1) a class A misdemeanor, unless any of the circumstances described
4 in (2) - (4) of this subsection apply;

5 (2) a class C felony if the person's driving causes physical injury to
6 another person;

7 (3) a class B felony if the person's driving causes serious physical
8 injury to another person;

9 (4) a class A felony if the person's driving causes the death of another
10 person.

11 (g) A person who violates (b) of this section is guilty of a class A
12 misdemeanor.

13 * **Sec. 2.** AS 28.90.990(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

14 (30) "physical injury" has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900.

15 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect September 1, 2008.