

2019 Minnesota Session Laws

Amendments to Crime Laws Not Directly Affecting the Guidelines

May 29, 2019

Background

These are new and amended statutes passed by the 91st Minnesota Legislature that may be of interest to the Commission. No action is required or recommended.

1. Hands-Free Cellphone While Driving

2019 Minn. Laws [ch. 11](#)

Description: Minn. Stat. § 169.475 is amended to prohibit the use of wireless communication device when a motor vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic unless in a voice-activated or hands-free mode to initiate or participate in a cell phone call or to compose, send or listen to an electronic message. A second or subsequent violation is a fine of \$275.

Effective Date: August 1, 2019, and applies to acts committed on or after that date.

Reference: Minn. Stat. §§ [169.011](#); [169.475](#) (2018).

2. Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

2019 Minn. Laws 1st Sp. Sess. [ch. 5](#), art. 2, § 28

Description: By September 1, 2019, the Commissioner of Public Safety, in consultation with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, shall appoint members to the Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to advise the commissioner and report to the legislature on recommendations to reduce and end violence against indigenous women and girls in Minnesota, including members of the two spirit community.

Effective Date: Convene first meeting by October 1, 2019. Report to the legislative committees by December 15, 2020. The task force expires on December 31, 2020.

3. Stays of Adjudication for Criminal Sexual Conduct

2019 Minn. Laws 1st Sp. Sess. [ch. 5](#), art. 4, § 1

Description: A decision by the Court to stay adjudication for violations of felony first- through fifth-degree criminal sexual conduct offenses, criminal sexual predatory conduct, and failure to register as a predatory offender must be justified in writing and on the record.

Effective Date: August 1, 2019, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Reference: Minn. Stat. §§ [609.095](#) (2018).

4. Law Enforcement; Reports of Sexual Assaults

2019 Minn. Laws 1st Sp. Sess. [ch. 5](#), art. 4, § 10

Description: A victim of criminal sexual conduct may initiate a law enforcement investigation by contacting any law enforcement agency, regardless of where the crime may have occurred. The agency must prepare a summary of the allegation and provide the person with a copy of it. The agency must begin an investigation of the facts, or, if the suspected crime was committed in a different jurisdiction, refer the matter along with the summary to the law enforcement agency where the suspected crime was committed for an investigation of the facts.

Effective Date: Not specified.

5. Ombudsperson for Corrections

2019 Minn. Laws 1st Sp. Sess. [ch. 5](#), art. 3, §§ 1–9

Description: Reestablishes the office of Ombudsperson for Corrections, accountable to the Governor, with authority to investigate decisions, acts, and other matters of the Department of Corrections so as to promote the highest attainable standards of competence, efficiency, and justice in the administration of corrections.

Effective Date: Not specified; funded in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019.

6. Disciplinary Segregation

2019 Minn. Laws 1st Sp. Sess. [ch. 5](#), art. 3, § 10

Description: Establishes standards and reporting requirements for disciplinary segregation status within the Department of Corrections, including mental health screening. Places restrictions on release from lengthy restrictive housing directly into the community.

Effective Date: Not specified; first annual report to Legislature due January 15, 2020.