



Ohio Revised Code

Section 4511.84 Earphones or earplugs on operator prohibited.

Effective: January 1, 2004

Legislation: Senate Bill 123 - 124th General Assembly

(A) No person shall operate a motor vehicle while wearing earphones over, or earplugs in, both ears. As used in this section, "earphones" means any headset, radio, tape player, or other similar device that provides the listener with radio programs, music, or other recorded information through a device attached to the head and that covers all or a portion of both ears. "Earphones" does not include speakers or other listening devices that are built into protective headgear.

(B) This section does not apply to:

- (1) Any person wearing a hearing aid;
- (2) Law enforcement personnel while on duty;
- (3) Fire department personnel and emergency medical service personnel while on duty;
- (4) Any person engaged in the operation of equipment for use in the maintenance or repair of any highway;
- (5) Any person engaged in the operation of refuse collection equipment.

(C) Except as otherwise provided in this division, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.
