

New law adds that texting while driving a commercial motor vehicle is a "serious traffic violation" for which a commercial motor vehicle driver can be disqualified for after conviction.

Prior law provided that any driver who was found in violation of an out-of-service order while driving a commercial motor vehicle would have been subject to the following penalties: (1) Upon a first conviction, the driver would have been subject to disqualification for a period of not less than 90 days nor more than one year. (2) Any driver who was found in violation twice within a 10-year period would have been subject to disqualification for not less than one year nor more than five years.

New law provides that any driver who is found in violation of an out-of-service order while driving a commercial motor vehicle shall be subject to the following penalties: (1) Upon a first conviction, the driver shall be subject to disqualification for a period of not less than 180 days nor more than one year. (2) Any driver who is found in violation twice within a 10-year period shall be subject to disqualification for not less than two years nor more than five years.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 32:414.2(B)(2)(a); Adds R.S. 32:414.2(A)(1)(d)(x))