

LINCOLN (AP) — Driving, deer hunting, parenting and partying are among the dozens of activities in Nebraska facing new rules beginning Thursday, July 15, when nearly 140 state laws passed in the spring went into effect.

Compared to previous years, there are significantly fewer new laws with price tags because of a continuing budget crunch. Even without much money, lawmakers and Gov. Dave Heineman found myriad ways to affect Nebraskans' lives.

A ban on texting while driving is perhaps the highest-profile of the new laws, but residents may not be fully aware of all its restrictions: Surfing the Web, e-mailing and instant-messaging are also banned.

Each will be a so-called secondary offense, much like the state's seat-belt law. Drivers will have to be pulled over for a primary offense, such as speeding, before being ticketed for defying the ban.

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