

## CHAPTER 171

## DRIVERS' LICENSES AND TRAINING SCHOOLS

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**171.02 LICENSES; TYPES, ENDORSEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS.**

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2006]*

Subd. 2. **Driver's license classifications, endorsements, exemptions.** (a) Drivers' licenses are classified according to the types of vehicles that may be driven by the holder of each type or class of license. The commissioner may, as appropriate, subdivide the classes listed in this subdivision and issue licenses classified accordingly.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c), clauses (1) and (2), and subdivision 2a, no class of license is valid to operate a motorcycle, school bus, tank vehicle, double-trailer or triple-trailer combination, vehicle transporting hazardous materials, or bus, unless so endorsed. There are four general classes of licenses as described in paragraphs (c) through (f).

(c) Class D drivers' licenses are valid for:

(1) operating all farm trucks if the farm truck is:

(i) controlled and operated by a farmer, including operation by an immediate family member or an employee of the farmer;

(ii) used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies, including hazardous materials, to or from a farm;

(iii) not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier as governed by Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, part 365; and

(iv) used within 150 miles of the farm;

(2) notwithstanding paragraph (b), operating an authorized emergency vehicle, as defined in section 169.01, subdivision 5, whether or not in excess of 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight;

(3) operating a recreational vehicle as defined in section 168.011, subdivision 25, that is operated for personal use;

(4) operating all single-unit vehicles except vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of more than 26,000 pounds, vehicles designed to carry more than 15 passengers including the driver, and vehicles that carry hazardous materials;

(5) notwithstanding paragraph (d), operating a type A school bus or a multifunctional school activity bus without a school bus endorsement if:

(i) the bus has a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 pounds or less;

(ii) the bus is designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver; and

(iii) the requirements of subdivision 2a are satisfied, as determined by the commissioner;

(6) operating any vehicle or combination of vehicles when operated by a licensed peace officer while on duty; and

(7) towing vehicles if:

(i) the towed vehicles have a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 pounds or less; or

(ii) the towed vehicles have a gross vehicle weight of more than 10,000 pounds and the combination of vehicles has a gross vehicle weight of 26,000 pounds or less.

(d) Class C drivers' licenses are valid for:

(1) operating class D motor vehicles;

(2) with a hazardous materials endorsement, transporting hazardous materials in class D vehicles; and

(3) with a school bus endorsement, operating school buses designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver.

(e) Class B drivers' licenses are valid for:

(1) operating all class C motor vehicles, class D motor vehicles, and all other single-unit motor vehicles including, with a passenger endorsement, buses; and

(2) towing only vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 pounds or less.

(f) Class A drivers' licenses are valid for operating any vehicle or combination of vehicles.

Subd. 2a. **Exception for certain school bus drivers.** Notwithstanding subdivision 2, paragraph (c), the holder of a class D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a type A school bus described in subdivision 2, paragraph (b), under the following conditions:

(a) The operator is an employee of the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus and is not solely hired to provide transportation services under this subdivision.

(b) The operator drives the school bus only from points of origin to points of destination, not including home-to-school trips to pick up or drop off students.

(c) The operator is prohibited from using the eight-light system. Violation of this paragraph is a misdemeanor.

(d) The operator's employer has adopted and implemented a policy that provides for annual training and certification of the operator in:

(1) safe operation of the type of school bus the operator will be driving;

(2) understanding student behavior, including issues relating to students with disabilities;

(3) encouraging orderly conduct of students on the bus and handling incidents of misconduct appropriately;

(4) knowing and understanding relevant laws, rules of the road, and local school bus safety policies;

(5) handling emergency situations; and

(6) safe loading and unloading of students.

(e) A background check or background investigation of the operator has been conducted that meets the requirements under section 122A.18, subdivision 8, or 123B.03 for teachers; section 144.057 or chapter 245C for day care employees; or section 171.321, subdivision 3, for all other persons operating a type A school bus under this subdivision.

(f) Operators shall submit to a physical examination as required by section 171.321, subdivision 2.

(g) The operator's driver's license is verified annually by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus.

(h) A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under section 609.02, of violating section 169A.25, 169A.26, 169A.27, 169A.31, 169A.51, or 169A.52, or a similar statute or ordinance of another state is precluded from operating a school bus for five years from the date of conviction.

(i) A person who has ever been convicted of a disqualifying offense as defined in section 171.3215, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), may not operate a school bus under this subdivision.

(j) A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under section 609.02, of a fourth moving offense in violation of chapter 169 is precluded from operating a school bus for one year from the date of the last conviction.

(k) Students riding the school bus must have training required under section 123B.90, subdivision 2.

(l) An operator must be trained in the proper use of child safety restraints as set forth in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "Guideline for the Safe Transportation of Pre-school Age Children in School Buses," if child safety restraints are used by the passengers.

(m) Annual certification of the requirements listed in this subdivision must be maintained under separate file at the business location for each operator licensed under this subdivision and subdivision 2, paragraph (b), clause (5). The business manager, school board, governing body of a nonpublic school, or any other entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus operating under this subdivision is responsible for maintaining these files for inspection.

(n) The school bus must bear a current certificate of inspection issued under section 169.451.

(o) The word "School" on the front and rear of the bus must be covered by a sign that reads "Activities" when the bus is being operated under authority of this subdivision.

**Subd. 3. Motorized bicycle.** (a) A motorized bicycle may not be operated on any public roadway by any person who does not possess a valid driver's license, unless the person has obtained a motorized bicycle operator's permit or motorized bicycle instruction permit from the commissioner of public safety. The operator's permit may be issued to any person who has attained the age of 15 years and who has passed the examination prescribed by the commissioner. The instruction permit may be issued to any person who has attained the age of 15 years and who has successfully completed an approved safety course and passed the written portion of the examination prescribed by the commissioner.

(b) This course must consist of, but is not limited to, a basic understanding of:

- (1) motorized bicycles and their limitations;
- (2) motorized bicycle laws and rules;
- (3) safe operating practices and basic operating techniques;
- (4) helmets and protective clothing;
- (5) motorized bicycle traffic strategies; and
- (6) effects of alcohol and drugs on motorized bicycle operators.

(c) The commissioner may adopt rules prescribing the content of the safety course, examination, and the information to be contained on the permits. A person operating a motorized bicycle under a motorized bicycle permit is subject to the restrictions imposed by section 169.974, subdivision 2, on operation of a motorcycle under a two-wheel instruction permit.

(d) The fees for motorized bicycle operator's permits are as follows:

(1) Examination and operator's permit, valid for one year	\$ 6.75
(2) Duplicate	\$ 3.75
(3) Renewal permit before age 21 and valid until age 21	\$ 9.75
(4) Renewal permit age 21 or older and valid for four years	\$ 15.75
(5) Duplicate of any renewal permit	\$ 5.25
(6) Written examination and instruction permit, valid for 30 days	\$ 6.75

*[For text of subs 4 and 5, see M.S.2006]*

**History:** 2007 c 143 art 3 s 3; 2007 c 146 art 8 s 11,12

## **171.06 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE, PERMIT, IDENTIFICATION CARD; FEES.**

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2006]*

Subd. 2. **Fees.** (a) The fees for a license and Minnesota identification card are as follows:

Classified Driver's License	D-\$22.25	C-\$26.25	B-\$33.25	A-\$41.25
Classified Under-21 D.L.	D-\$22.25	C-\$26.25	B-\$33.25	A-\$21.25
Instruction Permit				\$10.25
Provisional License				\$13.25
Duplicate License or duplicate identification card				\$11.75
Minnesota identification card or Under-21 Minnesota identification card, other than duplicate, except as otherwise provided in section 171.07, subdivisions 3 and 3a				\$16.25

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), an individual who holds a provisional license and has a driving record free of (1) convictions for a violation of section 169A.20, 169A.33, 169A.35, or sections 169A.50 to 169A.53, (2) convictions for crash-related moving violations, and (3) convictions for moving violations that are not crash related, shall have a \$3.50 credit toward the fee for any classified under-21 driver's license. "Moving violation" has the meaning given it in section 171.04, subdivision 1.

(c) In addition to the driver's license fee required under paragraph (a), the commissioner shall collect an additional \$4 processing fee from each new applicant or individual renewing a license with a school bus endorsement to cover the costs for processing an applicant's initial and biennial physical examination certificate. The department shall not charge these applicants any other fee to receive or renew the endorsement.

*[For text of subs 2a to 6, see M.S.2006]*

**History:** 2007 c 143 art 3 s 4

## 171.07 INFORMATION ON LICENSE AND IDENTIFICATION CARD.

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2006]*

Subd. 1a. **Filing photograph or image; data classification.** The department shall file, or contract to file, all photographs or electronically produced images obtained in the process of issuing drivers' licenses or Minnesota identification cards. The photographs or electronically produced images shall be private data pursuant to section 13.02, subdivision 12. Notwithstanding section 13.04, subdivision 3, the department shall not be required to provide copies of photographs or electronically produced images to data subjects. The use of the files is restricted:

- (1) to the issuance and control of drivers' licenses;
- (2) to criminal justice agencies, as defined in section 299C.46, subdivision 2, for the investigation and prosecution of crimes, service of process, enforcement of no contact orders, location of missing persons, investigation and preparation of cases for criminal, juvenile, and traffic court, and supervision of offenders;
- (3) to public defenders, as defined in section 611.272, for the investigation and preparation of cases for criminal, juvenile, and traffic courts; and
- (4) to child support enforcement purposes under section 256.978.

*[For text of subs 1b to 3, see M.S.2006]*

Subd. 3a. **Identification cards for seniors.** A Minnesota identification card issued to an applicant 65 years of age or over shall be of a distinguishing color and plainly marked

“senior.” The fee for the card issued to an applicant 65 years of age or over shall be one-half the required fee for a class D driver’s license rounded down to the nearest quarter dollar. A Minnesota identification card or a Minnesota driver’s license issued to a person 65 years of age or over shall be valid identification for the purpose of qualifying for reduced rates, free licenses or services provided by any board, commission, agency or institution that is wholly or partially funded by state appropriations.

*[For text of subds 4 to 10, see M.S.2006]*

**Subd. 11. Standby or temporary custodian.** (a) Upon the written request of the applicant and upon payment of an additional fee of \$4.25, the department shall issue a driver’s license or Minnesota identification card bearing a symbol or other appropriate identifier indicating that the license holder has appointed an individual to serve as a standby or temporary custodian under chapter 257B.

(b) The request must be accompanied by a copy of the designation executed under section 257B.04.

(c) The department shall maintain a computerized records system of all individuals listed as standby or temporary custodians by driver’s license and identification card applicants. This data must be released to appropriate law enforcement agencies under section 13.69. Upon a parent’s request and payment of a fee of \$4.25, the department shall revise its list of standby or temporary custodians to reflect a change in the appointment.

(d) At the request of the license or cardholder, the department shall cancel the standby or temporary custodian indication without additional charge. However, this paragraph does not prohibit a fee that may be applicable for a duplicate or replacement license or card, renewal of a license, or other service applicable to a driver’s license or identification card.

(e) Notwithstanding sections 13.08, subdivision 1, and 13.69, the department and department employees are conclusively presumed to be acting in good faith when employees rely on statements made, in person or by telephone, by persons purporting to be law enforcement and subsequently release information described in paragraph (b). When acting in good faith, the department and department personnel are immune from civil liability and not subject to suit for damages resulting from the release of this information.

(f) The department and its employees:

(1) have no duty to inquire or otherwise determine whether a designation submitted under this subdivision is legally valid and enforceable; and

(2) are immune from all civil liability and not subject to suit for damages resulting from a claim that the designation was not legally valid and enforceable.

(g) Of the fees received by the department under this subdivision:

(1) Up to \$61,000 received must be deposited in the general fund.

(2) All other fees must be deposited in the driver services operating account in the special revenue fund specified in section 299A.705.

*[For text of subds 12 to 14, see M.S.2006]*

**History:** 2007 c 129 s 49; 2007 c 143 art 3 s 5,6

## 171.12 DRIVING RECORD; FILING; PRIVATE DATA; SURCHARGE.

*[For text of subds 1 to 7a, see M.S.2006]*

**Subd. 9. Driving record disclosure to law enforcement.** The commissioner shall also furnish driving records, without charge, to chiefs of police, county sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys, and other law enforcement agencies with the power to arrest.

**History:** 2007 c 54 art 3 s 3

## 171.20 MINNESOTA LICENSE REQUIRED; CONDITIONS, FEES.

*[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.2006]*

**Subd. 4. Reinstatement fee.** (a) Before the license is reinstated, (1) an individual whose driver's license has been suspended under section 171.16, subdivisions 2 and 3; 171.175; 171.18; or 171.182, or who has been disqualified from holding a commercial driver's license under section 171.165, and (2) an individual whose driver's license has been suspended under section 171.186 and who is not exempt from such a fee, must pay a fee of \$20.

(b) Before the license is reinstated, an individual whose license has been suspended under sections 169.791 to 169.798 must pay a \$20 reinstatement fee.

(c) When fees are collected by a licensing agent appointed under section 171.061, a handling charge is imposed in the amount specified under section 171.061, subdivision 4. The reinstatement fee and surcharge must be deposited in an approved state depository as directed under section 171.061, subdivision 4.

(d) Reinstatement fees collected under paragraph (a) for suspensions under sections 171.16, subdivision 3, and 171.18, subdivision 1, clause (10), must be deposited in the special revenue fund and are appropriated to the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board for peace officer training reimbursement to local units of government.

(e) A suspension may be rescinded without fee for good cause.

**History:** 2007 c 143 art 3 s 7

### 171.305 IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE.

*[For text of subs 1 to 10, see M.S.2006]*

**Subd. 11. Program standards.** The program standards applicable to section 171.306 also apply to this section.

**History:** 2007 c 54 art 3 s 4

### 171.306 IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE PILOT PROJECT.

**Subdivision 1. Pilot project established; reports.** The commissioner shall conduct a two-year ignition interlock device pilot project as provided in this section. The commissioner shall select one metropolitan county and one rural county to participate in the pilot project. The pilot project must begin on July 1, 2007, and continue until June 30, 2009. The commissioner shall submit two preliminary reports by February 1, 2008, and by December 1, 2008, and a final report by September 1, 2009, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees having jurisdiction over criminal justice policy and funding. The reports must evaluate the successes and failures of the pilot project, provide information on participation rates, and make recommendations on continuing the project.

**Subd. 2. Performance standards; certification.** The commissioner shall determine appropriate performance standards and a certification process for ignition interlock devices for the pilot project. Only devices certified by the commissioner as meeting the performance standards may be used in the pilot project.

**Subd. 3. Pilot project components.** (a) Under the pilot project, the commissioner shall issue a driver's license to an individual whose driver's license has been revoked under chapter 169A for a repeat impaired driving incident if the person qualifies under this section and agrees to all of the conditions of the project.

(b) The commissioner must denote the person's driver's license record to indicate the person's participation in the program. The license must authorize the person to drive only vehicles having functioning ignition interlock devices conforming with the requirements of subdivision 2.

(c) Notwithstanding any statute or rule to the contrary, the commissioner has authority to and shall determine the appropriate period for which a person participating in the ignition interlock pilot program shall be subject to this program, and when the person is eligible to be issued:

(1) a limited driver's license subject to the ignition interlock restriction;

(2) full driving privileges subject to the ignition interlock restriction; and

(3) a driver's license without an ignition interlock restriction.

(d) A person participating in this pilot project shall agree to participate in any treatment recommended by a chemical use assessment.

(e) The commissioner shall determine guidelines for participation in the project. A person participating in the project shall sign a written agreement accepting these guidelines and agreeing to comply with them.

(f) It is a misdemeanor for a person who is licensed under this section for driving a vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock device to drive, operate, or be in physical control of a motor vehicle other than a vehicle properly equipped with an ignition interlock device.

**History:** 2007 c 54 art 3 s 5

### 171.321 QUALIFICATIONS OF SCHOOL BUS DRIVER.

*[For text of subs 1 to 3, see M.S.2006]*

**Subd. 4. Training.** (a) No person shall drive a class A, B, C, or D school bus when transporting school children to or from school or upon a school-related trip or activity without having demonstrated sufficient skills and knowledge to transport students in a safe and legal manner.

(b) A bus driver must have training or experience that allows the driver to meet at least the following competencies:

(1) safely operate the type of school bus the driver will be driving;

(2) understand student behavior, including issues relating to students with disabilities;

(3) encourage orderly conduct of students on the bus and handle incidents of misconduct appropriately;

(4) know and understand relevant laws, rules of the road, and local school bus safety policies;

(5) handle emergency situations; and

(6) safely load and unload students.

(c) The commissioner of public safety shall develop a comprehensive model school bus driver training program and model assessments for school bus driver training competencies, which are not subject to chapter 14. A school district, nonpublic school, or private contractor may use alternative assessments for bus driver training competencies with the approval of the commissioner of public safety. A driver may receive at least eight hours of school bus in-service training any year, as an alternative to being assessed for bus driver competencies after the initial year of being assessed for bus driver competencies. The employer shall keep the assessment or a record of the in-service training for the current period available for inspection by representatives of the commissioner.

*[For text of subd 5, see M.S.2006]*

**History:** 2007 c 146 art 8 s 13

### 171.3215 CANCELING BUS ENDORSEMENT FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES.

*[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.2006]*

**Subd. 2a. Cancellation for crime against minor.** Within ten days of receiving notice that a Head Start bus driver has committed a crime against a minor, the commissioner shall permanently cancel the passenger endorsement on the offender's driver's license. Upon canceling the offender's passenger endorsement, the commissioner shall immediately notify the licensed offender of the cancellation in writing, by depositing in the United States post office a notice addressed to the licensed offender at the licensed offender's last known address, with postage prepaid thereon. For purposes of this subdivision, "crime against a minor" means an

act committed against a minor victim that constitutes a violation of section 609.185, 609.19, 609.195, 609.20, 609.205, 609.21, subdivision 1a, paragraph (a), 609.221, 609.222, 609.223, 609.342, 609.343, 609.344, 609.345, 609.352, or a felony violation of section 609.322, 609.324, or 609.377.

*[For text of subs 3 and 4, see M.S.2006]*

**History:** 2007 c 54 art 3 s 14

### **171.55 OUT-OF-STATE CONVICTIONS GIVEN EFFECT.**

The commissioner shall give the same effect for driver licensing purposes to conduct reported from a licensing authority or court in another state or province or territory of Canada that the commissioner would give to conduct reported from a court or other agency of this state, whether or not the other state or province or territory of Canada is a party to the Driver License Compact in section 171.50. The conduct to be given effect by the commissioner includes a report of conviction for an offense enumerated in section 171.50, article IV, or an offense described in sections 171.17 and 171.18.

**History:** 2007 c 54 art 3 s 6