Overview

This bill contains several provisions relating to school buses:

- Increase in maximum school bus length to 45 feet
- Requirement that a van or small bus that has been modified to reduce its capacity from 12 to 10 passengers to qualify as a type III school bus must have been originally manufactured to comply with federal passenger vehicle safety standards
- Application to snow plows and other highway work vehicles of the requirement to stop for a school bus with lights flashing and stop arm extended
- Repeal of requirement that a school bus endorsement on a driver's license be canceled if the license holder is convicted of a gross misdemeanor
- Expansion of authority of department of public safety to waive requirements for permanent cancellation of a school bus endorsement

Section

1. **School bus definitions.** Amends the definitions of Type C and Type D school buses to allow those buses to be up to 45 feet long. Under present national standards that apply in Minnesota the maximum length is 40 feet.

Amends the definition of Type III school bus (station wagon, car, van, or small bus used as a school bus) to specify that the maximum
manufacturer's rated seating capacity of 10 persons need not be the original manufacturer's rated seating capacity. Provides that a Type III school bus that is converted to a seating capacity of 10 or fewer and placed into service on or after August 1, 1999, must have been originally manufactured to comply with passenger safety standards.

2 **Highway work vehicles stopping for school buses.** Makes the law that requires other vehicles to stop for a school bus with flashing lights and extended stop arm applies to snow plows and other vehicles engaged in work on a highway.

3 **School bus endorsement cancellations.** Deletes the requirement that the department of public safety must cancel the school bus endorsement of a school bus driver convicted of a gross misdemeanor.

4 **Waivers.** Allows the department of public safety to waive the law that requires permanent cancellation of a school bus endorsement for a nonfelony violation of controlled substance laws or a nonviolent felony. Under this provision the department could also waive the cancellation requirement for a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor.

Provides that the department may waive the cancellation requirement for a second, third, or fourth degree burglary conviction after ten years have expired from the conviction.