

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H. F. 2181

DATE: March 28, 2001

Version: As introduced

Authors: Workman and Swenson

Subject: Operation of Type A School Bus with Class D License

Analyst: John Williams, 651-296-5045

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Allows a person with a class D (basic) driver's license to operate a type A school bus (van-type) with a gross weight of 10,000 pounds or less and a capacity of 15 or fewer persons including the driver without a school bus driver's endorsement, under the following conditions::

- (1) The driver is employed by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus, and was such an employee as of the effective date of the bill.
- (2) The driver 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.
- (3) The driver is prohibited from using the eight-light warning system on the school bus, (a violation is designated a misdemeanor).
- (4) The driver's employer has adopted an implemented annual training and certification of the driver in student behavior, orderly conduct on school buses, school bus laws, emergency situations, and safe loading and unloading.
- (5) A background check or investigation of the driver has been conducted, meeting the requirements in current law for background checks or investigations of teachers, day care employees, or school bus drivers.
- (6) The driver submits to a physical examination required for school bus drivers under department of public safety rules.
- (7) The operator's driver's license is annually verified by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus.

(8) A person who commits first-degree DWI (second DWI in ten years, alcohol concentration of .20 or more, impaired driving with a child under 16 in the vehicle if the child is more than three years younger than the violator) or an implied consent violation is prohibited from operating a school bus for five years after the conviction.

(9) A person convicted of a fourth moving traffic violation is precluded from operating a school bus for one year after the conviction

(10) Students in the school bus must have received school bus safety training.

(11) The driver must be trained in proper use of child safety restraints.

(12) Certification that the above 11 requirements must be maintained in the driver's business location. Business managers, school boards, nonpublic school governing bodies, and bus owners, lessees, and contractors are responsible for maintaining records of this certification.

The bill would be effective July 1, 2001. The new law in the bill would expire July 1, 2003.