

House File 395 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 395
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 107)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to approved courses of instruction for school bus
2 drivers.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 321.376, subsection 3, Code 2025, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. a. (1) A person applying for employment or employed as
4 a school bus driver shall successfully complete a department of
5 education approved course of instruction for school bus drivers
6 before or within the first six months of employment and.

7 (2) The department of education shall accept proof that a
8 person successfully completed entry-level driver training in
9 accordance with section 321.188, subsection 1, paragraph "c",
10 if such training meets the requirements of 49 C.F.R. pt. 380,
11 Appendix C, and 49 C.F.R. pt. 380, Appendix D, as completion of
12 an approved course of instruction for school bus drivers.

13 (3) The department of education, in collaboration with
14 the department of transportation, shall adopt rules pursuant
15 to chapter 17A to establish requirements for providers of
16 entry-level driver training to comply with this paragraph. The
17 rules must provide for minimum training content, contact hours,
18 and proficiency standards, and must establish a standard training
19 course duration that ensures each training course provides all
20 entry-level driver training requirements and school bus driver
21 training requirements.

22 b. A person employed as a school bus driver shall
23 successfully complete a department of education approved course
24 of instruction for school bus drivers at least every twenty-four
25 months thereafter.

26 c. If an employee fails to provide an employer with a
27 certificate of completion of the required school bus driver's
28 course authorized under paragraph "a", the driver's employer
29 shall report the failure to the department of education and
30 the employee's authorization to operate a school bus shall be
31 revoked. The department of education shall send notice of the
32 revocation to both the employee and the employer. A person whose
33 school bus authorization has been revoked under this section
34 shall not be issued another authorization until certification
35 of the completion of an approved school bus driver's course in

1 accordance with paragraph "a" is received by the department of
2 education.

3 EXPLANATION

4 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
5 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

6 Under current law, a person applying for employment or
7 employed as a school bus driver must successfully complete
8 a course of instruction for school bus drivers approved by
9 the department of education (DE). The DE establishes rules and
10 requirements for such instruction courses. The course must be
11 completed before or within the first 6 months of the person's
12 employment and at least every 24 months thereafter.

13 Beginning February 7, 2022, the federal motor carrier safety
14 administration requires persons seeking a commercial driver's
15 license (CDL) for the first time, persons seeking to upgrade
16 certain existing CDLs, and persons seeking to obtain a school
17 bus, passenger, or hazardous materials endorsement to complete
18 entry-level driver training (ELDT).

19 This bill requires DE to accept proof that a person
20 successfully completed ELDT as completion of an approved course
21 of instruction for school bus drivers so long as that ELDT
22 contains passenger endorsement training curriculum and school
23 bus endorsement training curriculum. The bill requires DE, in
24 collaboration with the department of transportation, to adopt
25 administrative rules establishing requirements for ELDT providers
26 to comply with the bill, and requiring certain training course
27 standards.

28 The bill does not change the requirement for a person employed
29 as a school bus driver to successfully complete a DE-approved
30 course of instruction for school bus drivers at least every 24
31 months.

32 The bill makes corresponding and organizational changes to
33 Code section 321.376(3).