

**Senate File 2358 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2358  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3108)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the maximum driving distance of unsupervised  
2 persons issued a special minor's restricted driver's license  
3 who are enrolled at an accredited nonpublic school.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 321.194, subsection 4, paragraph b,  
2 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

3 A licensee may operate a motor vehicle unsupervised over  
4 the most direct and accessible route between the licensee's  
5 residence, school of enrollment, location where the licensee  
6 receives competent private instruction or independent private  
7 instruction, place of employment, location for farm work or  
8 farm-related work if the licensee resides on a farm or is  
9 employed for compensation on a farm in this state, and the  
10 closest service station, for any of the following purposes, as  
11 applicable, provided the driving distance between the point of  
12 origin and the destination is no more than twenty-five miles,  
13 unless waived pursuant to subsection 6A, and the licensee is in  
14 immediate possession of the license card:

15 Sec. 2. Section 321.194, Code 2026, is amended by adding the  
16 following new subsection:

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 6A. *Accredited nonpublic school distance*  
18 *waiver.* A licensee may operate a motor vehicle unsupervised  
19 over the most direct and accessible route between the licensee's  
20 residence and accredited nonpublic school of enrollment  
21 regardless of the distance if the licensee receives a distance  
22 waiver and carries a copy of the waiver while operating the motor  
23 vehicle.

24 a. The parent or guardian of a licensee may apply for a  
25 distance waiver by submitting an application to the chief school  
26 administrator or superintendent of the licensee's accredited  
27 nonpublic school.

28 b. The chief school administrator or superintendent of the  
29 licensee's accredited nonpublic school may approve a distance  
30 waiver application and, if approved, shall provide a tangible  
31 copy of the waiver to the licensee.

32 EXPLANATION

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

35 Under current law, a person between the ages of 14 and 18

1 holding a special minor's restricted driver's license (licensee)  
2 is authorized to operate a motor vehicle without supervision  
3 between certain approved locations, for certain activities,  
4 during certain times, and up to 25 miles per trip. A licensee  
5 is required to submit to the department of transportation  
6 (DOT) a certification from the licensee's school certifying the  
7 licensee is enrolled at the school for courses of instruction or  
8 extracurricular activities.

9 This bill authorizes a licensee to exceed the 25-mile driving  
10 distance limit when driving from home to school if the licensee  
11 is enrolled at an accredited nonpublic school and receives a  
12 distance waiver. The parent or guardian of a licensee is  
13 authorized to apply for a distance waiver by submitting an  
14 application to the chief school administrator or superintendent  
15 of the licensee's accredited nonpublic school. If the chief  
16 school administrator or superintendent approves a distance waiver  
17 application, the administrator or superintendent must provide a  
18 tangible copy of the waiver to the licensee. The licensee must  
19 carry a copy of the waiver while operating a motor vehicle in  
20 accordance with the special minor's restricted license.

21 A licensee who violates the restrictions of a special minor's  
22 restricted license commits a simple misdemeanor, classified  
23 as a moving violation, punishable by a \$70 scheduled fine.  
24 Additionally, the DOT must suspend the license for three months  
25 and is prohibited from issuing an intermediate license to the  
26 person for an additional three months following the person's 16th  
27 birthday.