

**Senate File 448 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 448  
BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1161)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to department of education school bus driver  
2 authorization and approved courses of instruction.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 321.376, subsections 1 and 3, Code 2025,  
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 1. a. The driver of a school bus shall hold a driver's  
4 license issued by the department of transportation valid for the  
5 operation of the school bus and a certificate of qualification  
6 for operation of a commercial motor vehicle issued by a physician  
7 or osteopathic physician licensed pursuant to chapter 148,  
8 physician assistant, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or  
9 chiropractor or any other person identified by federal and state  
10 law as authorized to perform physical examinations, ~~and~~.

11 b. If required by the school district employing the driver,  
12 the driver shall successfully complete an approved course of  
13 instruction in accordance with subsection 3.

14 c. A person holding a temporary restricted license issued  
15 under chapter 321J shall be prohibited from operating a school  
16 bus.

17 3. a. A person applying for employment or employed as a  
18 school bus driver shall not be required to successfully complete  
19 a department of education approved course of instruction for  
20 school bus drivers unless the school district hiring or employing  
21 the person requires successful completion of such course.

22 b. If a school district requires successful completion of an  
23 approved course, the person hired as a school bus driver shall  
24 complete the course before or within the first six months of  
25 employment and at least every twenty-four months thereafter. If  
26 an employee is required to complete a course and fails to provide  
27 an employer with a certificate of completion of the required  
28 school bus driver's course, the driver's employer shall report  
29 the failure to the department of education and the employee's  
30 authorization to operate a school bus shall be revoked. The  
31 department of education shall send notice of the revocation to  
32 both the employee and the employer. A person whose school bus  
33 authorization has been revoked under this ~~section~~ subsection  
34 shall not be issued another authorization until certification  
35 of the completion of an approved school bus driver's course is

1 received by the department of education, or until the person is  
2 employed by a school district that does not require successful  
3 completion of an approved course and the person is otherwise in  
4 compliance with this section.

5 EXPLANATION

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

8 Under current law, a person applying for employment or  
9 employed as a school bus driver is required to successfully  
10 complete a course of instruction for school bus drivers approved  
11 by the department of education (DE) before or within the first  
12 6 months of employment and at least every 24 months thereafter.  
13 If a school bus driver fails to provide an employer with a  
14 certificate of completion of the course, the driver's employer  
15 must report the failure to DE and the employee's authorization to  
16 operate a school bus must be revoked. A person whose school bus  
17 authorization has been revoked is prohibited from being issued  
18 another authorization until certification of the completion of a  
19 course is received by DE.

20 This bill exempts school bus drivers from being required to  
21 complete a course unless the school district employing the driver  
22 requires it. A school bus driver whose authorization is revoked  
23 may receive authorization without completion of a course if the  
24 driver is subsequently employed by a school district that does  
25 not require successful completion of a course, so long as the  
26 driver is otherwise eligible for authorization.

27 If a school bus driver's school district requires successful  
28 completion of a course, the driver must comply with the course  
29 requirements under current law.