

Senate Study Bill 1161 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON ZUMBACH)

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33 authorization has been revoked under this ~~section~~ subsection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.