

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

33

EXPLANATION

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

1 Under current law, a person between the ages of 14 and
2 18 holding a special minor's restricted driver's license
3 (licensee) is authorized to operate a motor vehicle without
4 supervision between certain approved locations, for certain
5 activities, during certain times, and up to 25 miles per
6 trip. A licensee is required to submit to the department of
7 transportation (DOT) a certification from the licensee's school
8 certifying the licensee is enrolled at the school for courses
9 of instruction or extracurricular activities.

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

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