



[SF 2109](#) – Minor Driving Permits (LSB5885SV.1)
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Fiscal Note Version – As amended and passed by the Senate

Description

[Senate File 2109](#) replaces the current special minor's license with a new special minor's restricted license. The special minor's restricted license entitles a person under the age of 16 (licensee) to drive up to 25 miles from the licensee's residence to the licensee's school, place of competent private instruction, extracurricular activities, or work shift in the hour before or after the licensee's scheduled work shift, school day, or extracurricular activity. A licensee may drive more than 25 miles if the licensee attends a public school and resides within the public school district. Under the Bill, an applicant for a special minor's restricted license must hold an instruction permit or a comparable permit issued by another state.

A licensee's parent or guardian must provide the [Department of Transportation](#) (DOT) with written consent for the licensee to drive to work. Eligible work activities include farm work and work activities under Iowa Code chapter [92](#). The Bill prohibits a licensee to drive as a part of the licensee's employment if the employment is nonfarm.

The Bill decreases the distance a licensee may travel with a farm-work authorization from 50 miles to 25 miles and retains other existing privileges.

The Bill removes the current requirement for schools to certify that a special need exists for the DOT to issue a special minor's license. Instead, the Bill requires an applicant's school to certify that the applicant is enrolled as a student or, if the applicant receives private instruction, the certification must be made by the applicant's primary instructor. The Bill authorizes a licensee to drive to school regardless of whether the school is public or accredited nonpublic.

The Bill contains various provisions for a licensee who violates the license restrictions or is convicted of violating a traffic law. The Bill establishes that a violation of a license restriction becomes a moving violation.

The Bill does not require a person who holds a special minor's license that was issued before the effective date of the Bill to apply for a new license. However, a person who was issued a special minor's license prior to the effective date of the Bill is prohibited from driving unaccompanied to the person's place of employment until after the person's parent or guardian provides written consent to the DOT in accordance with the Bill.

Background

Under current law, the DOT is authorized to issue special permits and licenses to persons under the age of 18, including a special minor's license, which authorizes unsupervised driving and can be issued to a person 14 and a half years of age. A special minor's license entitles a person between the ages of 14 and a half to 18 (student driver) to operate a motor vehicle without adult supervision up to 50 miles from the student driver's residence to the student driver's school or school bus stop or public transportation service. The student driver can operate a vehicle without supervision for more than 50 miles if the student driver drives to a

school within the school district of enrollment or within a school district contiguous to the school district of enrollment. Current law also distinguishes between a public school and accredited nonpublic school in regard to where a student driver is authorized to drive unsupervised, requires schools to certify that a special need exists for the DOT to issue a special minor’s license, and authorizes a student driver to drive to approved locations between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Under current law, a student driver who resides on a farm or is employed for compensation on a farm may drive up to 50 miles for the purpose of assisting the person’s parents, guardians, or employers with farm work or in connection with any farm job, employment, or other farm-related work, including traveling to or from the location of the farm work.

Assumptions

- The DOT will incur a one-time vendor cost of \$80,000 to redesign the existing minor school license to a special minor restricted license.
- The DOT will incur one-time information technology (IT) programming costs of \$68,000 for the DOT database to update the card design and create a new license, restriction, and sanction for the new special minor restricted license. A new form and a new program for the receipt/recording of the form will need to be created.
- The DOT estimates approximately 21,000 students may be eligible for special restricted driver’s licenses. It is assumed that 10,600 students would apply for this type of license per year.
- The DOT may incur additional staff overtime costs to help process employment consent forms.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated fiscal impact to the DOT for SF 2109 is approximately \$209,000 in FY 2025, and ongoing costs of approximately \$61,000 in FY 2026.

Figure 1 — Estimated Fiscal Impact for SF 2109

DOT Costs	FY 2025	FY 2026
Card Redesign	\$ 80,000	\$ 0
IT Programming	68,000	0
Employment Consent Form Processing Time	61,000	61,000
Total	\$ 209,000	\$ 61,000

Numbers may not total due to rounding.

Sources

Department of Transportation
Legislative Services Agency

/s/ Jennifer Acton

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
