

# Closing the Gap in Driver Safety with HF3988/SF4435

By Minnesota law, drivers age 18 and older **are not required** to take driver education training in Minnesota.

**HF3988/SF4435** addresses the safety of Minnesota drivers **by extending existing age requirements from under 18 to under 21.**



## Benefits of Raising the Age

**The investment pays for itself in lives and costs.** The state of Washington estimates that extending driver education requirements to 18+ novice drivers would reduce injury and fatal crashes by 17%.\* Applied to Minnesota's crash volume, that's hundreds fewer injuries and millions in avoided costs annually.

**Trained drivers are dramatically safer drivers.** Washington state data shows that drivers who complete driver education are 75% less likely to receive a traffic ticket and 24% less likely to be involved in a fatal crash.\* At age 18, trained drivers crash at half the rate of untrained peers.

**Driver education bridges a known developmental gap.** The prefrontal cortex, responsible for decision-making and impulse control, doesn't fully mature until the mid-20s to early 30s. Formal training gives young drivers the tools to compensate for what neuroscience tells us their brains haven't finished building yet.

**Minnesota would join a growing national movement.** Ohio and Washington both passed laws in 2025 requiring driver education for 18 to 20-year-olds, joining Texas and Maryland in recognizing that the 18th birthday shouldn't be a cutoff for safety.

## The Collective Voice for Driver Safety

Raising the minimum age for driver education requirements in Minnesota is a practical and effective way to improve road safety. **HF3988/SF4435** is supported by the **Advisory Council on Traffic Safety, Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths, the Minnesota Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association, and the Minnesota Safety Council.** We ask that you join us in that support.



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\*Washington State Department of Licensing. (December 1, 2024). ESSB 5583 Improving Young Driver Safety Implementation Plan. Washington State Department of Licensing.