

Subject Driver Education Programs

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Overview

Students may enroll in driver education courses through their school districts (usually through a community education program), or through private programs. State law does not require districts to offer these courses, and if a district does offer the course, it may charge students fees for the courses. This bill allows districts to pay a portion of the cost of the course, whether the course is offered by the district or by another provider, and be reimbursed by the state. Any cost to the student would be offset by the amount the district receives from the state, and the student would pay the difference.

In 2023, the legislature authorized driver education programs to offer both teleconference and online driver's education under Minnesota Statutes, sections 171.395 and 171.396. (Laws 2023, ch. 68, art. 4, §§ 62 and 63)

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | School boards may require fees.
Reduces the driver education fees a school may charge a student by the amount the school receives under new Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.335. |
| 2 | Driver education grants.
Allows a district to enroll a student aged 15 to 19 in a driver education course provided by the district or another provider, and pay a portion of the costs of the course on behalf of the student. For a student who qualifies for a free or reduced-price meal, the district may pay the provider \$350; for all other students, the district may pay \$150. The commissioner must then reimburse the district for the total amounts paid by the district to the driver education providers. The annual total amount necessary for the reimbursements would be annually appropriated. |

Section	Description
3	<p>Report; driver education.</p> <p>Establishes a work group to study driver education availability and access, identify barriers for course participation for low-income students, and analyze potential permanent funding sources to expand the availability of driver education opportunities. Requires the group to report to the legislature by January 15, 2025. Appropriates an unspecified amount for the activities of the work group.</p>



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