HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 615 **DATE:** April 15, 2011
Version: First engrossment

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Subject: Online driver's education

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This bill modifies driver's education requirements for a person under age 18 to obtain an instruction permit so that the classroom/theory portion of driver's education can be completed through an online program approved by the Department of Public Safety. It establishes a completion certificate and imposes a $2 per certificate fee on online driver's education providers. The fee "blinks off" once the department's costs to implement the program are covered. The bill also makes technical changes.

Under current law, unless a person under age 18 has completed driver's education or obtained a driver's license in another jurisdiction, in order to get an instruction permit the person must complete the classroom portion of driver's education, or home-classroom training if certain conditions for home schooling have been met. The bill adds a third option of completing an Internet-based driver education program.

The bill does not change basic prerequisites in obtaining an instruction permit that require the applicant to (1) be enrolled in (or have completed) an approved behind-the-wheel program, and (2) have completed the theory (classroom or classroom-equivalent) portion of driver's education.