

Subject School bus driver third-party testing

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Overview

This bill broadens third-party testing authority for school bus drivers, so that a service cooperative can be designated as a third-party testing program and administer commercial driver's license road exams to employees of the cooperative's member school districts. The change is effective August 1, 2026.

Background. Under current law, various entities like motor carriers, school bus companies, and school districts are authorized to be designated as a third-party testing program and administer road tests for a commercial driver's license (CDL). (Also of note, school districts or school bus companies can enter into agreements with other districts or companies, respectively, to conduct third-party testing of each other's employees. Minn. Stat. § 171.3213; Minn. Rules, part 7410.6460, subp. 4.)

Third-party testing authority is provided under administrative rules adopted by the Department of Public Safety. Among the certification requirements, individuals must conduct at least 12 road tests annually in order to maintain tester certification. Minn. Rules, part 7410.6420, subp. 6.

The bill broadens school district CDL testing authority through Minnesota Service Cooperatives. The service cooperatives are established under state law and managed through joint powers agreements among school districts, various local units of government, and other entities. Minn. Stat. § 123A.21. They provide various coordinated projects and services to the members (like cooperative purchasing, procurement of insurance, and professional development).

Summary

Section	Description
1	Educational programs and services. Makes a conforming change.
2	Third-party testing of school bus drivers. Broadens authority for third-party road tests for school bus drivers. Subd. 1. Definition. Establishes that a road test includes any endorsement tests for school bus operation. Subd. 2. Bilateral agreements. Makes technical and clarifying changes. Subd. 3. Service cooperatives. Authorizes a service cooperative to be designated by the Department of Public Safety as a third-party testing program and administer road tests to employees of school districts that are members of the cooperative.



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