

**Senate Counsel, Research,  
and Fiscal Analysis**

G-17 STATE CAPITOL  
75 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1606  
(651) 296-4791  
FAX: (651) 296-7747  
JO ANNE ZOFF SELLNER  
DIRECTOR

**Senate**

State of Minnesota

**S.F. No. 1345 – Providing for Two-Year Driving Permits**

**Author:** Senator Satveer Chaudhary

**Prepared by:** Amy Vennewitz, Fiscal Analyst (651/296-7681)  
Bonnie Berezovsky, Senate Counsel (651/296-9191)

**Date:** April 12, 2005

---

**Section 1** specifies that an instruction permit is valid for a period of up to two years, rather than one as provided in current law.

**Section 2** makes a technical change to conform to section 1.

Senator Chaudhary introduced--

S.F. No. 1345: Referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill for an act

2 relating to drivers' licenses; providing for two-year  
3 driving permits; making clarifying changes; amending  
4 Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 171.05, subdivisions  
5 1, 2.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 171.05,  
8 subdivision 1, is amended to read:

9 Subdivision 1. [PERSON 18 OR MORE YEARS OF AGE.] (a) Any  
10 person who is 18 or more years of age and who, except for a lack  
11 of instruction in operating a motor vehicle, would otherwise be  
12 qualified to obtain a class D driver's license under this  
chapter, may apply for an instruction permit and the department  
14 shall issue such the permit entitling. The instruction permit  
15 entitles the applicant, while having such permit in immediate  
16 possession, to drive a motor vehicle for which a class D license  
17 is valid upon the highways for a period of one year, but such  
18 person must be two years if the permit holder:

19 (1) has the permit in immediate possession; and

20 (2) is driving the vehicle while accompanied by an adult  
21 licensed driver who is actually occupying a seat beside the  
22 driver.

23 (b) Any license of a lower class may be used as an  
24 instruction permit for to operate a vehicle requiring a higher  
25 class license for a period of six months after passage of the

1 written test or tests required for the higher class and when the  
2 licensee is accompanied by and receiving instruction from a  
3 holder of the appropriate higher class license. A copy of the  
4 record of examination taken for the higher class license must be  
5 carried by the driver while using such the lower class license  
6 as an instruction permit.

7 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 171.05,  
8 subdivision 2, is amended to read:

9 Subd. 2. [PERSON LESS THAN 18 YEARS OF AGE.] (a)

10 Notwithstanding any provision in subdivision 1 to the contrary,  
11 the department may issue an instruction permit to an applicant  
12 who is 15, 16, or 17 years of age and who:

13 (1) has completed a course of driver education in another  
14 state, has a previously issued valid license from another state,  
15 or is enrolled in either:

16 (i) a public, private, or commercial driver education  
17 program that is approved by the commissioner of public safety  
18 and that includes classroom and behind-the-wheel training; or

19 (ii) an approved behind-the-wheel driver education program  
20 when the student is receiving full-time instruction in a home  
21 school within the meaning of sections 120A.22 and 120A.24, the  
22 student is working toward a home-school diploma, the student's  
23 status as a home-school student has been certified by the  
24 superintendent of the school district in which the student  
25 resides, and the student is taking home-classroom driver  
26 training with classroom materials approved by the commissioner  
27 of public safety;

28 (2) has completed the classroom phase of instruction in the  
29 driver education program;

30 (3) has passed a test of the applicant's eyesight;

31 (4) has passed a department-administered test of the  
32 applicant's knowledge of traffic laws;

33 (5) has completed the required application, which must be  
34 approved by (i) either parent when both reside in the same  
35 household as the minor applicant or, if otherwise, then (ii) the  
36 parent or spouse of the parent having custody or, in the event

1 there is no court order for custody, then (iii) the parent or  
2 spouse of the parent with whom the minor is living or, if items  
- (i) to (iii) do not apply, then (iv) the guardian having custody  
4 of the minor or, in the event a person under the age of 18 has  
5 no living father, mother, or guardian, or is married or  
6 otherwise legally emancipated, then (v) the applicant's adult  
7 spouse, adult close family member, or adult employer; provided,  
8 that the approval required by this clause contains a  
9 verification of the age of the applicant and the identity of the  
10 parent, guardian, adult spouse, adult close family member, or  
11 adult employer; and

12 (6) has paid the fee required in section 171.06,  
subdivision 2.

14 (b) The instruction permit is valid for ~~one-year~~ two years  
15 from the date of application and may be renewed upon payment of  
16 a fee equal to the fee for issuance of an instruction permit  
17 under section 171.06, subdivision 2.