

S.F. No. 362 – Online Driver Education

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S.F. 362 authorizes online driver education for people under the age of 18. Under the current rule, online driver education instruction may be offered to people at least 18 years old.

Section 1 [Person less than 18 years of age] reorganizes the statute allowing the Department of Public Safety to issue an instruction permit to a person age 15, 16, or 17. Authorizes online driver education courses as one of the ways a person can complete the driver education requirements. Effective July 1, 2023.

Section 2 [Online driver education program] authorizes licensed driver education programs to provide online driver education.

Online driver education programming standards must include: (1) a means for students to measure performance outcomes; (2) a rotating pool of quiz questions; (3) accountability features to ensure the identity of the student while engaged in online study; (4) a method of measuring the time spent by the student in the course; (5) 24/7 technical support to customers; (6) a Minnesota driver education instructor to monitor student progress and be available to answer questions in a timely manner but not in real time; (7) secure storage of course content and student data; (8) preventative measures to prevent unauthorized access to private data; (9) the ability to update course content uniformly throughout the state; and (10) an online interactive supplemental parental curriculum.

Online driver education programs must meet the same standards and requirements as in-person classes. Effective July 1, 2023.

Section 3 [Repealer] repeals the rule that authorizes online driver education programs for people over the age of 18. Effective July 1, 2023.