

S.F. No. 2134 – Authorizing Teleconference Driver Education

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S.F. 2134 authorizes teleconference driver’s education and repeals certain rules relating to teleconference and online driver’s education.

Section 1 [Persons less than 18 years of age] permits the Department of Public Safety to issue instruction permits to applicants who are enrolled in a teleconference driver education program. Strikes authorization for the issuance of instruction permits for applicants who have completed a driver’s education program in another state. Effective July 1, 2023.

Section 2 [Teleconference Driver Education Program; Proposed Minn. Stat. §171.395] authorizes and creates requirements for teleconference driver education programs.

Subdivision 1 authorizes licensed driver education programs to provide teleconference driver education. The programs must offer both behind-the-wheel and classroom instruction to be eligible to offer teleconference driver education programs.

Subdivision 2 establishes the requirements for teleconference driver education programs. A teleconference driver education program must: (1) use live synchronous distance learning and ensure student questions and comments can be addressed in real time; (2) ensure all locations are linked with picture and sound; (3) use classroom curriculum identical to in-person instruction; (4) provide teleconference instruction to any student enrolled in the program; (5) provide an interactive supplemental parent curriculum via teleconference instruction; (6) conform to Minnesota rules. A student may only receive teleconference instruction if the instructor confirms that the student’s picture and sound allow the student to interact with the instructor in real time.

Section 2 is effective July 1, 2023.

Section 3 [Repealer] repeals certain rules relating to teleconference classroom instruction and online classroom instruction for driver education programs. Effective July 1, 2023.