SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 1374

(SENATE AUTHORS: LIMMER and Heintzeman)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/13/2025	383	Introduction and first reading Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety
02/24/2025	493	Author added Eichorn
03/24/2025	1026	Author stricken Eichorn HF substituted in committee HF341
05/17/2025	5147	Author added Heintzeman

A bill for an act

relating to public safety; enhancing penalties and establishing minimum fines for repeat violations of driving without a valid license; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 171.24.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 171.24, is amended to read:

171.24 VIOLATIONS; DRIVING WITHOUT VALID LICENSE.

Subdivision 1. **Driving after suspension; misdemeanor.** Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 5, a person is guilty of a misdemeanor if:

(1) the person's driver's license or driving privilege has been suspended;

(2) the person has been given notice of or reasonably should know of the suspension; and

(3) the person disobeys the order by operating in this state any motor vehicle, the operation of which requires a driver's license, while the person's license or privilege is suspended.

Subd. 2. **Driving after revocation; misdemeanor.** Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 5, a person is guilty of a misdemeanor if:

(1) the person's driver's license or driving privilege has been revoked;

(2) the person has been given notice of or reasonably should know of the revocation; and

(3) the person disobeys the order by operating in this state any motor vehicle, the operation of which requires a driver's license, while the person's license or privilege is revoked.

Subd. 3. **Driving after cancellation; misdemeanor.** Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 5, a person is guilty of a misdemeanor if:

(1) the person's driver's license or driving privilege has been canceled;

(2) the person has been given notice of or reasonably should know of the cancellation; and

(3) the person disobeys the order by operating in this state any motor vehicle, the operation of which requires a driver's license, while the person's license or privilege is canceled.

Subd. 4. **Driving after disqualification; misdemeanor.** Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 5, a person is guilty of a misdemeanor if the person:

(1) has been disqualified from holding a commercial driver's license or been denied the privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle;

(2) has been given notice of or reasonably should know of the disqualification; and

(3) disobeys the order by operating in this state a commercial motor vehicle while the person is disqualified to hold the license or privilege.

Subd. 5. **Gross misdemeanor violations.** (a) A person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor if:

(1) the person's driver's license or driving privilege has been canceled or denied under section 171.04, subdivision 1, clause (10);

(2) the person has been given notice of or reasonably should know of the cancellation or denial; and

(3) the person disobeys the order by operating in this state any motor vehicle, the operation of which requires a driver's license, while the person's license or privilege is canceled or denied.

(b) A person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor if the person:

(1) violates this section:

(i) and causes a collision resulting in substantial bodily harm, as defined in section 609.02, subdivision 7a, or death to another; or

(ii) within ten years of the first of two prior convictions under this section; and

(2) at the time of the violation the person's driver's license or driving privilege has been suspended, revoked, or canceled or the person has been disqualified from holding a commercial driver's license or been denied the privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle:

(i) pursuant to section 169.89, subdivision 5; 169A.52; 169A.54; 171.05, subdivision 2b, paragraph (d); 171.13, subdivision 3 or 4; 171.17, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (1) or (10); 171.177; 171.18, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (2), (3), (4), (5), or (11); 171.32; or 260B.225, subdivision 9; or a violation of section 169.13; 169.21; 169.444; 609.19, subdivision 1, clause (2); or 609.487, subdivisions 3 to 5; or any violation of chapter 169A; or

(ii) pursuant to a law from another state similar to those described in item (i).

Subd. 6. **Responsibility for prosecution.** (a) The attorney in the jurisdiction in which the violation occurred who is responsible for prosecution of misdemeanor violations of this section is also responsible for prosecution of gross misdemeanor violations of this section.

(b) Nothing in this section or section 609.035 or 609.04 limits the power of the state to prosecute or punish a person for conduct that constitutes any other crime under any other law of this state.

Subd. 7. **Sufficiency of notice.** (a) Notice of revocation, suspension, cancellation, or disqualification is sufficient if personally served, or if mailed by first class mail to the person's last known address or to the address listed on the person's driver's license. Notice is also sufficient if the person was informed that revocation, suspension, cancellation, or disqualification would be imposed upon a condition occurring or failing to occur, and where the condition has in fact occurred or failed to occur.

(b) It is not a defense that a person failed to file a change of address with the post office, or failed to notify the department ~~of Public Safety~~ of a change of name or address as required under section 171.11.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.