SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 3969

(SENATE AUTHORS: MAYE QUADE, Rasmusson, Hoffman and Duckworth)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/26/2026	6414	Introduction and first reading Referred to Education Policy
03/02/2026	6463	Author added Rasmusson
03/11/2026	6601	Author added Hoffman
03/18/2026		Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Judiciary and Public Safety Author added Duckworth

A bill for an act

relating to education; establishing a field trip policy; requiring reporting to licensing boards; establishing the criminal offense of grooming; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 122A.20, subdivisions 1, 2; 260E.15; 260E.28, subdivision 1; 609.352, subdivisions 1, 4, by adding a subdivision; Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, sections 260E.065, by adding a subdivision; 260E.20, subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 121A.

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

Section 1. **[121A.613] FIELD TRIPS.**

A school employee, independent contractor, or volunteer must not be alone with a student during a field trip, including a field trip with an overnight stay.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 122A.20, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Grounds for revocation, suspension, or denial.** (a) The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board or Board of School Administrators, whichever has jurisdiction over a teacher's licensure, may, on the written complaint of the school board employing a teacher, a teacher organization, or any other interested person, refuse to issue, refuse to renew, suspend, or revoke a teacher's license to teach for any of the following causes:

(1) immoral character or conduct;

(2) failure, without justifiable cause, to teach for the term of the teacher's contract;

(3) gross inefficiency or willful neglect of duty;

(4) failure to meet licensure requirements; or

(5) fraud or misrepresentation in obtaining a license.

The written complaint must specify the nature and character of the charges.

(b) The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board or Board of School Administrators, whichever has jurisdiction over a teacher's licensure, shall refuse to issue, refuse to renew, or automatically revoke a teacher's license to teach without the right to a hearing upon receiving a certified copy of a conviction showing that the teacher has been convicted of child abuse, as defined in section 609.185, sex trafficking in the first degree under section 609.322, subdivision 1, sex trafficking in the second degree under section 609.322, subdivision 1a, engaging in hiring, or agreeing to hire a minor to engage in prostitution under section 609.324, subdivision 1, sexual abuse under section 609.342, 609.343, 609.344, 609.345, 609.3451, subdivision 3, or 617.23, subdivision 3, solicitation of children to engage in sexual conduct or communication of sexually explicit materials to children, or grooming under section 609.352, interference with privacy under section 609.746 or harassment or stalking under section 609.749 and the victim was a minor, using minors in a sexual performance under section 617.246, possessing pornographic works involving a minor under section 617.247, or any other offense not listed in this paragraph that requires the person to register as a predatory offender under section 243.166, or a crime under a similar law of another state or the United States. The board shall send notice of this licensing action to the district in which the teacher is currently employed.

(c) A person whose license to teach has been revoked, not issued, or not renewed under paragraph (b), may petition the board to reconsider the licensing action if the person's conviction for child abuse or sexual abuse is reversed by a final decision of the court of appeals or the supreme court or if the person has received a pardon for the offense. The petitioner shall attach a certified copy of the appellate court's final decision or the pardon to the petition. Upon receiving the petition and its attachment, the board shall schedule and hold a disciplinary hearing on the matter under section 214.10, subdivision 2, unless the petitioner waives the right to a hearing. If the board finds that, notwithstanding the reversal of the petitioner's criminal conviction or the issuance of a pardon, the petitioner is disqualified from teaching under paragraph (a), clause (1), the board shall affirm its previous licensing action. If the board finds that the petitioner is not disqualified from teaching under paragraph (a), clause (1), it shall reverse its previous licensing action.

(d) For purposes of this subdivision, the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board is delegated the authority to suspend or revoke coaching licenses.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 122A.20, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Mandatory reporting.** (a) A school board, superintendent, charter school board, charter school executive director, or charter school authorizer must report to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board, the Board of School Administrators, or the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, whichever has jurisdiction over the teacher's or administrator's license, when its teacher or administrator is discharged or resigns from employment after a charge is filed with the school board under section 122A.41, subdivisions 6, paragraph (a), clauses (1), (2), and (3), and 7, or after charges are filed that are grounds for discharge under section 122A.40, subdivision 13, paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (5), or when a teacher or administrator is suspended or resigns while an investigation is pending under section 122A.40, subdivision 13, paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (5), or chapter 260E; or 122A.41, subdivisions 6, clauses (1), (2), and (3), and 7; or when a teacher or administrator is suspended without an investigation under section 122A.41, subdivisions 6, paragraph (a), clauses (1), (2), and (3), and 7, or chapter 260E. The report must be made to the appropriate licensing board within ten days after the discharge, suspension, or resignation has occurred. The licensing board to which the report is made must investigate the report for violation of subdivision 1 and the reporting board, administrator, or authorizer must cooperate in the investigation. Notwithstanding any provision in chapter 13 or any law to the contrary, upon written request from the licensing board having jurisdiction over the license, a board, charter school, authorizer, charter school executive director, or school superintendent shall provide the licensing board with information about the teacher or administrator from the district's files, any termination or disciplinary proceeding, any settlement or compromise, or any investigative file. Upon written request from the appropriate licensing board, a board or school superintendent may, at the discretion of the board or school superintendent, solicit the written consent of a student and the student's parent to provide the licensing board with information that may aid the licensing board in its investigation and license proceedings. The licensing board's request need not identify a student or parent by name. The consent of the student and the student's parent must meet the requirements of chapter 13 and Code of Federal Regulations, title 34, section 99.30. The licensing board may provide a consent form to the district. Any data transmitted to any board under this section is private data under section 13.02, subdivision 12, notwithstanding any other classification of the data when it was in the possession of any other agency.

(b) The licensing board to which a report is made must transmit to the Attorney General's Office any record or data it receives under this subdivision for the sole purpose of having the Attorney General's Office assist that board in its investigation. When the Attorney

General's Office has informed an employee of the appropriate licensing board in writing that grounds exist to suspend or revoke a teacher's license to teach, that licensing board must consider suspending or revoking or decline to suspend or revoke the teacher's or administrator's license within 45 days of receiving a stipulation executed by the teacher or administrator under investigation or a recommendation from an administrative law judge that disciplinary action be taken.

(c) The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board and Board of School Administrators must report to the appropriate law enforcement authorities a revocation, suspension, or agreement involving a loss of license, relating to a teacher or administrator's inappropriate sexual conduct with a minor. For purposes of this section, "law enforcement authority" means a police department, county sheriff, or Tribal police department. A report by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board to appropriate law enforcement authorities does not diminish, modify, or otherwise affect the responsibilities of a school board or any person mandated to report abuse under chapter 260E.

(d) A police department or county sheriff must notify the appropriate licensing board when a teacher is criminally charged with an offense listed in subdivision 1, paragraph (b), or is charged with any other offense not listed in this section that requires the person to register as a predatory offender under section 243.166.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 260E.065, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 4. **Training for reporters; Department of Education.** (a) The commissioner of education must develop training for persons required to make a report under section 260E.06, and make the training available online or in person.

(b) The training must include the content required under subdivisions 1 and 2, and the commissioner must develop the training with input from experts as required under subdivision 3. The commissioner of education may collaborate with the commissioner of children, youth, and families when developing the training.

(c) The training must also include content specifically applicable to professionals or professionals' delegates engaged in education, including but not limited to:

(1) the requirement to report allegations of maltreatment involving students 18 through 21 years of age, including students receiving special education services, up to and including graduation and the issuance of a secondary or high school diploma; and

(2) a training module addressing grooming and threatened sexual abuse, including the duty to report grooming as maltreatment under section 260E.06, and how to identify the signs of grooming.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.15, is amended to read:

260E.15 SCREENING GUIDELINES.

(a) Child protection staff, supervisors, and others involved in child protection screening shall follow the guidance provided in the maltreatment screening guidelines issued by the commissioner and, when notified by the commissioner, shall immediately implement updated procedures and protocols.

(b) Any modification to the screening guidelines must be preapproved by the commissioner and must not be less protective of children than is mandated by statute. The county agency must consult with the county attorney before proposing modifications to the commissioner. The guidelines may provide additional protection for children but must not limit reports that are screened in or provide additional limits on consideration of reports that were screened out in making a screening determination.

(c) The screening guidelines issued by the commissioner must not limit an agency's ability to screen in and investigate a report of alleged maltreatment that occurred more than three years prior to the date of the report.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 260E.20, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **General duties.** (a) The local welfare agency shall offer services to prevent future maltreatment, safeguarding and enhancing the welfare of the maltreated child, and supporting and preserving family life whenever possible.

(b) If the report alleges a violation of a criminal statute involving maltreatment or child endangerment under section 609.378, the local law enforcement agency and local welfare agency shall coordinate the planning and execution of their respective investigation and assessment efforts to avoid a duplication of fact-finding efforts and multiple interviews. Each agency shall prepare a separate report of the results of the agency's investigation or assessment.

(c) In cases of alleged child maltreatment resulting in death, the local agency may rely on the fact-finding efforts of a law enforcement investigation to make a determination of whether or not maltreatment occurred.

(d) When necessary, the local welfare agency shall seek authority to remove the child from the custody of a parent, guardian, or adult with whom the child is living.

(e) In performing any of these duties, the local welfare agency shall maintain an appropriate record.

(f) In conducting a family assessment, noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or investigation, the local welfare agency shall gather information on the existence of substance abuse and domestic violence.

(g) If the family assessment, noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or investigation indicates there is a potential for abuse of alcohol or other drugs by the parent, guardian, or person responsible for the child's care, the local welfare agency must coordinate a comprehensive assessment pursuant to section 245G.05.

(h) The agency may use either a family assessment or investigation to determine whether the child is safe when responding to a report resulting from birth match data under section 260E.03, subdivision 23, paragraph (c). If the child subject of birth match data is determined to be safe, the agency shall consult with the county attorney to determine the appropriateness of filing a petition alleging the child is in need of protection or services under section 260C.007, subdivision 6, clause (16), in order to deliver needed services. If the child is determined not to be safe, the agency and the county attorney shall take appropriate action as required under section 260C.503, subdivision 2.

(i) When conducting any family assessment, noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or investigation, the agency shall ask the child, if age appropriate; parents; extended family; and reporter about the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to section 260.761 and the child's race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision 10.

(j) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a local welfare agency or local law enforcement agency from investigating alleged maltreatment that occurred more than three years prior to the date of the maltreatment report.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.28, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Immediate investigation for alleged maltreatment in a facility.** (a) The commissioner of human services; children, youth, and families; health; or education, whichever is responsible for investigating the report, shall immediately investigate if the report alleges that:

(1) a child who is in the care of a facility as defined in section 260E.03 is the victim of maltreatment in a facility by an individual in that facility or has been the victim of maltreatment in a facility by an individual in that facility within the three years preceding the report; or

(2) a child is the victim of maltreatment in a facility by an individual in a facility defined in section 260E.03, subdivision 6, while in the care of that facility within the three years preceding the report.

(b) The commissioner of the agency responsible for investigating the report shall arrange for the transmittal to the commissioner of reports received by local agencies and may delegate to a local welfare agency the duty to investigate reports. The commissioner of the agency responsible for investigating the report or local welfare agency may interview any children who are or have been in the care of a facility under investigation and the children's parents, guardians, or legal custodians.

(c) In conducting an investigation under this section, the commissioner has the powers and duties specified for a local welfare agency under this chapter.

(d) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent the agency responsible for screening and investigating allegations of maltreatment from investigating alleged maltreatment that occurred more than three years prior to the date of the maltreatment report.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.352, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** As used in this section:

(a) "child" means a person 15 years of age or younger;

(b) "pattern" means two or more instances of conduct;

~~(b)~~ (c) "sexual conduct" means sexual contact of the individual's primary genital area, sexual penetration as defined in section 609.341, or sexual performance as defined in section 617.246; and

~~(c)~~ (d) "solicit" means commanding, entreating, or attempting to persuade a specific person in person, by telephone, by letter, or by computerized or other electronic means.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.352, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 2c. **Grooming.** A person 18 years of age or older who knowingly engages in a pattern of conduct that seduces, solicits, lures, or entices, or attempts to seduce, solicit, lure,

or entice, a child to engage or participate in unlawful sexual conduct that is for the purpose of sexual gratification or arousal of the victim, the accused, or another individual is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced as provided in subdivision 4.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.352, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Penalty.** A person convicted under subdivision 2 ~~or~~, 2a, or 2c is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than five years, or to payment of a fine of not more than $10,000, or both.