

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; modifying and authorizing various provisions relating to
1.3 transportation, motor vehicles, and drivers; establishing requirements for
1.4 meteorological towers; requiring reports; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018,
1.5 sections 160.05, subdivision 1; 161.115, subdivision 43; 168.09, subdivision 7;
1.6 168.091; 168.092; 169.09, subdivision 3; 169.451, subdivisions 2, 4, by adding a
1.7 subdivision; 171.02, subdivisions 2a, 2b; 171.07, by adding a subdivision; 174.30,
1.8 subdivisions 2a, 4a, 8; 299D.03, by adding a subdivision; Minnesota Statutes 2019
1.9 Supplement, sections 161.14, subdivision 94; 171.07, subdivision 6a; Laws 2019,
1.10 First Special Session chapter 3, article 2, section 34, subdivision 2; article 3, section
1.11 120; Laws 2020, chapter 71, article 2, section 15, subdivision 2; proposing coding
1.12 for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 169; 216F; 360; repealing Minnesota
1.13 Statutes 2018, sections 169.86, subdivision 3b; 174.30, subdivision 4b.

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

1.15 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 160.05, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.16 Subdivision 1. **Six years.** (a) When any road or portion of a road has been used and kept
1.17 in repair and worked for at least six years continuously as a public highway by a road
1.18 authority, it shall be deemed dedicated to the public to the width of the actual use and be
1.19 and remain, until lawfully vacated, a public highway whether it has ever been established
1.20 as a public highway or not. Nothing contained in this subdivision shall impair the right,
1.21 title, or interest of the water department of any city of the first class secured under Special
1.22 Laws 1885, chapter 110. This subdivision shall apply to roads and streets except platted
1.23 streets within cities. If a road authority fails to give the notice required by paragraph (b),
1.24 this subdivision does not apply.

1.25 (b) Before a road authority may make any repairs or conduct any work on a private road
1.26 as defined by section 169.011, subdivision 57, the road authority must notify the owner of
1.27 the road of the intent to make repairs or conduct work on the private road. The notice must

2.1 be sent to the owner by certified mail. The notice must specify the segment of road that is
2.2 the subject of the notice and state the duration of the repairs or work. The notice must include
2.3 the following: "Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 160.05, your private road may be
2.4 deemed to be dedicated to the public if the following conditions are met for six continuous
2.5 years: (1) the road is used by the public; and (2) the road is repaired or worked on by a road
2.6 authority. This means that the road will no longer be a private road but will be a public road.
2.7 You will not receive compensation from the road authority when the road is dedicated to
2.8 the public."

2.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION.** This section is effective August 1, 2020, and
2.10 applies to any repairs, maintenance, or work newly started on a private road on or after that
2.11 date. This section does not apply to a road segment for which: (1) repair or work started
2.12 before August 1, 2020; or (2) a road authority has continuously maintained since before
2.13 August 1, 2020.

2.14 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 161.115, subdivision 43, is amended to read:

2.15 Subd. 43. **Route No. 112.** Beginning at ~~the terminus of Route No. 53 on the southerly~~
2.16 ~~limits of the city of South St. Paul~~ a point on the southerly limits of the city of St. Paul,
2.17 ~~thence extending through South St. Paul into the city of St. Paul~~ northerly to connect with
2.18 Route No. 102 as herein established.

2.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective after the conditions in Laws 2019, First
2.20 Special Session chapter 3, article 3, section 120, as amended by this act, are met.

2.21 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2019 Supplement, section 161.14, subdivision 94, is amended
2.22 to read:

2.23 Subd. 94. **Specialist Noah Pierce Bridge.** The bridge on marked ~~Trunk Highway 37~~
2.24 ~~over marked U.S. Highway 53~~ U.S. Highway 53 over marked Trunk Highway 37 in the
2.25 city of Eveleth is designated as "Specialist Noah Pierce Bridge." Subject to section 161.139,
2.26 the commissioner must adopt a suitable design to mark this bridge and erect appropriate
2.27 signs.

2.28 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 168.09, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

2.29 Subd. 7. **Display of temporary permit.** (a) A vehicle that displays a Minnesota plate
2.30 issued under this chapter may display a temporary permit in conjunction with expired
2.31 registration if:

2.32 (1) the current registration tax and all other fees and taxes have been paid in full; and

3.1 (2) the plate has been applied for.

3.2 (b) A vehicle may display a temporary permit in conjunction with expired registration,
3.3 with or without a registration plate, if:

3.4 (1) the plates have been applied for;

3.5 (2) the registration tax and other fees and taxes have been paid in full; and

3.6 (3) either the vehicle is used solely as a collector vehicle while displaying the temporary
3.7 permit and not used for general transportation purposes or the vehicle was issued a 21-day
3.8 permit under section 168.092, subdivision 1.

3.9 (c) The permit is valid for a period of 60 days. The permit must be in a format prescribed
3.10 by the commissioner ~~and whenever practicable must be posted upon the driver's side of the~~
3.11 ~~rear window on the inside of the vehicle,~~ affixed to the rear of the vehicle where a license
3.12 plate would normally be affixed, and plainly visible. The permit is valid only for the vehicle
3.13 for which it was issued to allow a reasonable time for the new plates to be manufactured
3.14 and delivered to the applicant. The permit may be issued only by the commissioner or by
3.15 a deputy registrar under section 168.33.

3.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2021, or upon initial
3.17 deployment of the replacement motor vehicle title and registration information system,
3.18 whichever is earlier. The commissioner of public safety must notify the revisor of statutes
3.19 of the effective date.

3.20 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 168.091, is amended to read:

3.21 **168.091 31-DAY TEMPORARY VEHICLE PERMIT.**

3.22 Subdivision 1. **Nonresident buyer.** (a) Upon payment of a fee of \$1, the commissioner
3.23 may issue a permit to a nonresident purchasing a vehicle in this state for the sole purpose
3.24 of allowing the vehicle to be removed from this state.

3.25 (b) The permit is in lieu of any other registration or taxation for use of the highways and
3.26 is valid for a period of 31 days from the date of sale, trade, or gift.

3.27 (c) The permit must be available in an electronic format as determined by the
3.28 commissioner.

3.29 (d) If the sale, gift, or trade information is electronically transmitted to the commissioner
3.30 by a dealer or deputy registrar of motor vehicles, the \$1 fee is waived.

4.1 (e) The permit must be ~~posted upon the left side of the inside rear window of the vehicle~~
4.2 ~~or, if not practicable,~~ affixed to the rear of the vehicle where it is plainly visible to law
4.3 ~~enforcement.~~ Each permit is valid only for the vehicle for which the permit was issued.

4.4 Subd. 2. **Dealer.** The registrar may issue ~~a quantity of permits in booklet form~~ to licensed
4.5 dealers upon payment of the proper fee for each permit ~~contained in said booklet.~~ When
4.6 ~~issuing a permit, the dealer shall immediately forward to the registrar information on forms~~
4.7 ~~supplied by the registrar showing to whom the permit was issued, the vehicle description,~~
4.8 ~~date of issue and expiration, and such other information as the registrar may require.~~

4.9 Subd. 3. **Proceeds to highway user fund.** All payments received for such permits shall
4.10 be paid into the state treasury and credited to the highway user tax distribution fund.

4.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2021, or upon initial
4.12 deployment of the replacement motor vehicle title and registration information system,
4.13 whichever is earlier. The commissioner of public safety must notify the revisor of statutes
4.14 of the effective date.

4.15 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 168.092, is amended to read:

4.16 **168.092 21-DAY TEMPORARY VEHICLE PERMIT.**

4.17 Subdivision 1. **Resident buyer.** The motor vehicle registrar may issue a permit to a
4.18 person purchasing a new or used motor vehicle in this state for the purpose of allowing the
4.19 purchaser a reasonable time to register the vehicle and pay fees and taxes due on the transfer.
4.20 The permit is valid for a period of 21 days. The permit must be in a form as the registrar
4.21 may determine ~~and, whenever practicable must be posted upon the left side of the inside~~
4.22 ~~rear window of the vehicle,~~ affixed to the rear of the vehicle where a license plate would
4.23 normally be affixed, and plainly visible. Each permit is valid only for the vehicle for which
4.24 issued.

4.25 Subd. 2. **Dealer.** The registrar may issue ~~a quantity of permits~~ to licensed dealers. When
4.26 issuing a permit, the dealer shall complete the permit in the manner prescribed by the
4.27 department. ~~One copy of the permit shall be retained in sequential order in the dealer's files.~~

4.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2021, or upon initial
4.29 deployment of the replacement motor vehicle title and registration information system,
4.30 whichever is earlier. The commissioner of public safety must notify the revisor of statutes
4.31 of the effective date.

5.1 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 169.09, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

5.2 Subd. 3. **Driver to give information.** (a) The driver of any motor vehicle involved in
5.3 a collision the driver knows or has reason to know results in bodily injury to or death of
5.4 another, or damage to any vehicle driven or attended by another, shall give the driver's
5.5 name, ~~address, and date of birth,~~ mailing address or e-mail address, and the registration
5.6 plate number of the vehicle being driven. The driver shall, upon request and if available,
5.7 exhibit the driver's license or permit to drive to ~~the individual struck or the driver or occupant~~
5.8 ~~of or individual attending any vehicle collided with. The driver also shall give the information~~
5.9 ~~and upon request exhibit the license or permit to any peace officer at the scene of the collision~~
5.10 or who is investigating the collision. The driver shall render reasonable assistance to any
5.11 individual injured in the collision.

5.12 (b) If not given at the scene of the collision, the driver, within 72 hours after the accident,
5.13 shall give, on request to any individual involved in the collision or to a peace officer
5.14 investigating the collision, the name and address of the insurer providing vehicle liability
5.15 insurance coverage, and the local insurance agent for the insurer.

5.16 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 169.451, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

5.17 Subd. 2. **Inspection certificate.** Except as provided in subdivision 2a, no person shall
5.18 drive, or no owner shall knowingly permit or cause to be driven, any school bus or Head
5.19 Start bus unless there is displayed thereon a certificate issued by the commissioner of public
5.20 safety stating that on a certain date, which shall be within 13 months of the date of operation,
5.21 a member of the Minnesota State Patrol inspected the bus and found that on the date of
5.22 inspection the bus complied with the applicable provisions of state law relating to
5.23 construction, design, equipment, and color.

5.24 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

5.25 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 169.451, is amended by adding a subdivision to
5.26 read:

5.27 Subd. 2a. **Interim inspection; certificate.** In lieu of the certificate required in subdivision
5.28 2, a new or used school bus being sold by a dealer in this state may display an interim
5.29 inspection certificate. The school bus dealer completing the preregistration certificate
5.30 required in section 168.102 may inspect the bus to determine if the bus complies with the
5.31 applicable provisions of state law relating to construction, design, equipment, and color. If
5.32 the bus complies with the applicable provisions of state law, the dealer may affix the interim
5.33 inspection certificate to the school bus, indicating that on the date of the inspection, the bus

6.1 complied with the applicable provisions of state law relating to construction, design,
6.2 equipment, and color. The interim certificate must include the date of the inspection and
6.3 must be valid until the owner's next scheduled annual inspection, but must not be valid for
6.4 more than 12 months following the month of the initial inspection. The commissioner must
6.5 provide the prescribed interim inspection certificates at no cost to the dealer.

6.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

6.7 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 169.451, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

6.8 Subd. 4. **Violation; penalty.** The State Patrol shall enforce ~~subdivision~~ subdivisions 2
6.9 and 2a. A violation of subdivision 2 is person who operates a school bus without a valid
6.10 inspection certificate issued pursuant to subdivision 2 or an interim inspection certificate
6.11 issued pursuant to subdivision 2a is guilty of a misdemeanor.

6.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

6.13 Sec. 11. **[169.812] ESCORT VEHICLES FOR OVERDIMENSIONAL LOADS;**
6.14 **DEFINITIONS; REQUIREMENTS.**

6.15 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have
6.16 the meanings given.

6.17 (b) "Licensed peace officer" means a law enforcement officer licensed under sections
6.18 626.84 to 626.863, who holds a certificate under section 299D.085, and who may operate
6.19 an authorized emergency vehicle and direct and control traffic and require traffic to yield
6.20 to an overdimensional load.

6.21 (c) "Escort driver" means an individual who holds a certificate under section 299D.085
6.22 and is authorized to control and direct traffic as a flagger during the movement of an
6.23 overdimensional load following the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices standards
6.24 as defined by the Federal Highway Administration and section 169.06, subdivision 4.

6.25 (d) "Flagger" means a person who actively controls the flow of vehicular traffic into,
6.26 through, or into and through a temporary traffic control zone using hand-signaling devices
6.27 or an automated flagger assistance device.

6.28 (e) "Overdimensional load" is a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight
6.29 of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum specified in this chapter, or otherwise not in
6.30 conformity with the provisions of this chapter.

7.1 Subd. 2. Escort vehicles required; width. (a) Except as provided in paragraphs (d) and
7.2 (e), no escort vehicle is required if the width of an overdimensional load is 15 feet or less
7.3 as measured at the bottom of the load or is 16 feet or less as measured at the top of the load.

7.4 (b) Only one rear escort vehicle is required on a multilane divided roadway if the width
7.5 of an overdimensional load is more than 15 feet as measured at the bottom of the load or is
7.6 more than 16 feet as measured at the top of the load.

7.7 (c) Only one lead escort vehicle and one rear escort vehicle is required on any undivided
7.8 roadway if the width of an overdimensional load is more than 15 feet as measured at the
7.9 bottom of the load or is more than 16 feet as measured at the top of the load.

7.10 (d) Only one lead licensed peace officer is required when any part of an overdimensional
7.11 load or a vehicle transporting an overdimensional load extends beyond the left of the
7.12 centerline on an undivided roadway.

7.13 (e) The commissioner may require additional escorts when deemed necessary to protect
7.14 public safety or to ensure against undue damage to the road foundations, surfaces, or
7.15 structures. The commissioner must specify in the permit (1) the number of additional escorts
7.16 required; and (2) whether the operators of the escort vehicles must be licensed peace officers
7.17 or may be escort drivers, as defined in subdivision 1.

7.18 Subd. 3. Escort vehicles required; length. (a) When a vehicle transporting an
7.19 overdimensional load is operated on a multilane divided roadway:

7.20 (1) only one rear escort vehicle is required if the overdimensional load has an overall
7.21 length exceeding 110 feet; or

7.22 (2) only one lead escort vehicle and one rear escort vehicle is required if the
7.23 overdimensional load has an overall length exceeding 150 feet.

7.24 (b) One lead escort vehicle and one rear escort vehicle is required on any undivided
7.25 roadway if the overall length of the overdimensional load exceeds 110 feet.

7.26 (c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), the commissioner may require additional
7.27 escorts when deemed necessary to protect public safety or to ensure against undue damage
7.28 to the road foundations, surfaces, or structures. The commissioner must specify in the permit
7.29 (1) the number of additional escorts required; and (2) whether the operators of the escort
7.30 vehicles must be licensed peace officers or may be escort drivers, as defined in subdivision
7.31 1.

7.32 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

8.1 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 171.02, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

8.2 Subd. 2a. **Exception for certain school bus drivers.** Notwithstanding subdivision 2,
8.3 paragraph (b), the holder of a class D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement,
8.4 may operate a type A school bus or a multifunction school activity bus under the following
8.5 conditions:

8.6 (a) The operator is an employee of the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school
8.7 bus and is not solely hired to provide transportation services under this subdivision.

8.8 (b) The operator drives the school bus only from points of origin to points of destination,
8.9 not including home-to-school trips to pick up or drop off students.

8.10 (c) The operator is prohibited from using the eight-light system. Violation of this
8.11 paragraph is a misdemeanor.

8.12 (d) The operator's employer has adopted and implemented a policy that provides for
8.13 annual training and certification of the operator in:

8.14 (1) safe operation of the type of school bus the operator will be driving;

8.15 (2) understanding student behavior, including issues relating to students with disabilities;

8.16 (3) encouraging orderly conduct of students on the bus and handling incidents of
8.17 misconduct appropriately;

8.18 (4) knowing and understanding relevant laws, rules of the road, and local school bus
8.19 safety policies;

8.20 (5) handling emergency situations; and

8.21 (6) safe loading and unloading of students.

8.22 (e) A background check or background investigation of the operator has been conducted
8.23 that meets the requirements under section 122A.18, subdivision 8, or 123B.03 for teachers;
8.24 section 144.057 or chapter 245C for day care employees; or section 171.321, subdivision
8.25 3, for all other persons operating a school bus under this subdivision.

8.26 (f) Operators shall submit to a physical examination as required by section 171.321,
8.27 subdivision 2, and must have in their possession the original or a copy of a current medical
8.28 examiner's certificate, or otherwise provide proof of being medically qualified, to operate
8.29 a school bus under this subdivision.

8.30 (g) The operator's driver's license is verified annually by the entity that owns, leases, or
8.31 contracts for the school bus.

9.1 (h) A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under section 609.02, of violating
9.2 section 169A.25, 169A.26, 169A.27, 169A.31, 169A.51, or 169A.52, or a similar statute
9.3 or ordinance of another state is precluded from operating a school bus for five years from
9.4 the date of conviction.

9.5 (i) A person who has ever been convicted of a disqualifying offense as defined in section
9.6 171.3215, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), may not operate a school bus under this subdivision.

9.7 (j) A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under section 609.02, of a fourth
9.8 moving offense in violation of chapter 169 is precluded from operating a school bus for one
9.9 year from the date of the last conviction.

9.10 (k) Students riding the school bus must have training required under section 123B.90,
9.11 subdivision 2.

9.12 (l) An operator must be trained in the proper use of child safety restraints as set forth in
9.13 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "Guideline for the Safe Transportation
9.14 of Pre-school Age Children in School Buses," if child safety restraints are used by the
9.15 passengers.

9.16 (m) Annual certification of the requirements listed in this subdivision must be maintained
9.17 under separate file at the business location for each operator licensed under this subdivision
9.18 and subdivision 2, paragraph (b), clause (5). The business manager, school board, governing
9.19 body of a nonpublic school, or any other entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school
9.20 bus operating under this subdivision is responsible for maintaining these files for inspection.

9.21 (n) The school bus must bear a current certificate of inspection issued under section
9.22 169.451.

9.23 (o) If the word "School" appears on the front and rear of the bus, the word "School"
9.24 must be covered by a sign that reads "Activities" when the bus is being operated under
9.25 authority of this subdivision.

9.26 (p) The type A-I school bus or multifunction school activity bus is designed to transport
9.27 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver.

9.28 (q) The school bus or multifunction school activity bus has a gross vehicle weight rating
9.29 of 14,500 pounds or less.

9.30 (r) An operator who sustains a conviction as described in paragraph (h), (i), or (j) while
9.31 employed by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus must report the
9.32 conviction to the employer within ten days of the date of the conviction.

10.1 (s) An operator whose driver's license is suspended, revoked, canceled, or disqualified
10.2 by Minnesota, another state, or another jurisdiction must notify the operator's employer in
10.3 writing of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification. The
10.4 operator must notify the operator's employer before the end of the business day immediately
10.5 following the day the operator received notice of the suspension, revocation, cancellation,
10.6 lost privilege, or disqualification.

10.7 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 171.02, subdivision 2b, is amended to read:

10.8 Subd. 2b. **Exception for type III vehicle drivers.** (a) Notwithstanding subdivision 2,
10.9 the holder of a class A, B, C, or D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may
10.10 operate a type III vehicle described in section 169.011, subdivision 71, paragraph (h), under
10.11 the conditions in this subdivision.

10.12 (b) The operator is an employee of the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school
10.13 bus.

10.14 (c) The operator's employer has adopted and implemented a policy that provides for
10.15 annual training and certification of the operator in:

10.16 (1) safe operation of a type III vehicle;

10.17 (2) understanding student behavior, including issues relating to students with disabilities;

10.18 (3) encouraging orderly conduct of students on the bus and handling incidents of
10.19 misconduct appropriately;

10.20 (4) knowing and understanding relevant laws, rules of the road, and local school bus
10.21 safety policies;

10.22 (5) handling emergency situations;

10.23 (6) proper use of seat belts and child safety restraints;

10.24 (7) performance of pretrip vehicle inspections;

10.25 (8) safe loading and unloading of students, including, but not limited to:

10.26 (i) utilizing a safe location for loading and unloading students at the curb, on the nontraffic
10.27 side of the roadway, or at off-street loading areas, driveways, yards, and other areas to
10.28 enable the student to avoid hazardous conditions;

10.29 (ii) refraining from loading and unloading students in a vehicular traffic lane, on the
10.30 shoulder, in a designated turn lane, or a lane adjacent to a designated turn lane;

11.1 (iii) avoiding a loading or unloading location that would require a pupil to cross a road,
11.2 or ensuring that the driver or an aide personally escort the pupil across the road if it is not
11.3 reasonably feasible to avoid such a location;

11.4 (iv) placing the type III vehicle in "park" during loading and unloading; and

11.5 (v) escorting a pupil across the road under item (iii) only after the motor is stopped, the
11.6 ignition key is removed, the brakes are set, and the vehicle is otherwise rendered immobile;
11.7 and

11.8 (9) compliance with paragraph (k), concerning reporting certain convictions to the
11.9 employer within ten days of the date of conviction.

11.10 (d) A background check or background investigation of the operator has been conducted
11.11 that meets the requirements under section 122A.18, subdivision 8, or 123B.03 for school
11.12 district employees; section 144.057 or chapter 245C for day care employees; or section
11.13 171.321, subdivision 3, for all other persons operating a type III vehicle under this
11.14 subdivision.

11.15 (e) Operators shall submit to a physical examination as required by section 171.321,
11.16 subdivision 2, and must have in their possession the original or a copy of a current medical
11.17 examiner's certificate, or otherwise provide proof of being medically qualified, to operate
11.18 a school bus under this subdivision.

11.19 (f) The operator's employer requires preemployment drug testing of applicants for
11.20 operator positions. Current operators must comply with the employer's policy under section
11.21 181.951, subdivisions 2, 4, and 5. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the operator's
11.22 employer may use a Breathalyzer or similar device to fulfill random alcohol testing
11.23 requirements.

11.24 (g) The operator's driver's license is verified annually by the entity that owns, leases, or
11.25 contracts for the type III vehicle as required under section 171.321, subdivision 5.

11.26 (h) A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under section 609.02, of violating
11.27 section 169A.25, 169A.26, 169A.27, or 169A.31, or whose driver's license is revoked under
11.28 sections 169A.50 to 169A.53 of the implied consent law or section 171.177, or who is
11.29 convicted of violating or whose driver's license is revoked under a similar statute or ordinance
11.30 of another state, is precluded from operating a type III vehicle for five years from the date
11.31 of conviction.

12.1 (i) A person who has ever been convicted of a disqualifying offense as defined in section
12.2 171.3215, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), may not operate a type III vehicle under this
12.3 subdivision.

12.4 (j) A person who sustains a conviction, as defined under section 609.02, of a moving
12.5 offense in violation of chapter 169 within three years of the first of three other moving
12.6 offenses is precluded from operating a type III vehicle for one year from the date of the last
12.7 conviction.

12.8 (k) An operator who sustains a conviction as described in paragraph (h), (i), or (j) while
12.9 employed by the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the school bus, shall report the
12.10 conviction to the employer within ten days of the date of the conviction.

12.11 (l) An operator of a type III vehicle whose driver's license is suspended, revoked,
12.12 canceled, or disqualified by Minnesota, another state, or another jurisdiction must notify
12.13 the operator's employer in writing of the suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege,
12.14 or disqualification. The operator must notify the operator's employer before the end of the
12.15 business day immediately following the day the operator received notice of the suspension,
12.16 revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification.

12.17 (m) Students riding the type III vehicle must have training required under section
12.18 123B.90, subdivision 2.

12.19 (n) Documentation of meeting the requirements listed in this subdivision must be
12.20 maintained under separate file at the business location for each type III vehicle operator.
12.21 The business manager, school board, governing body of a nonpublic school, or any other
12.22 entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the type III vehicle operating under this subdivision
12.23 is responsible for maintaining these files for inspection.

12.24 (o) The type III vehicle must bear a current certificate of inspection issued under section
12.25 169.451.

12.26 (p) An employee of a school or of a school district, who is not employed for the sole
12.27 purpose of operating a type III vehicle, is exempt from paragraphs (e) and (f).

12.28 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2019 Supplement, section 171.07, subdivision 6a, is amended
12.29 to read:

12.30 Subd. 6a. **Autism spectrum or mental health identifier.** Upon the written request of
12.31 the applicant, the ~~department~~ commissioner must issue a driver's license or Minnesota
12.32 identification card bearing a graphic or written identifier for an autism spectrum disorder,
12.33 as defined in section 62A.3094, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), ~~or a mental health condition.~~

13.1 The applicant must submit the written request for the identifier at the time the photograph
13.2 or electronically produced image is taken. The commissioner must not include any specific
13.3 medical information on the driver's license or Minnesota identification card.

13.4 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 171.07, is amended by adding a subdivision to
13.5 read:

13.6 Subd. 6b. **Mental health identifier.** Upon the written request of the applicant, the
13.7 commissioner must issue a driver's license or Minnesota identification card bearing a graphic
13.8 or written identifier for a mental health condition. The applicant must submit the written
13.9 request for the identifier at the time the photograph or electronically produced image is
13.10 taken. The commissioner must not include any specific medical information on the driver's
13.11 license or Minnesota identification card.

13.12 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 174.30, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

13.13 Subd. 2a. **Vehicle and equipment safety; provider responsibilities.** (a) Every special
13.14 transportation service provider shall systematically inspect, repair, and maintain, or cause
13.15 to be inspected, repaired, and maintained, the vehicles and equipment subject to the control
13.16 of the provider. Each vehicle and its equipment must be inspected daily. A vehicle may not
13.17 be operated in a condition that is likely to cause an accident or breakdown of the vehicle.
13.18 Equipment, including specialized equipment necessary to ensure vehicle usability and safety
13.19 for disabled persons, must be in proper and safe operating condition at all times.

13.20 (b) Each special transportation provider shall maintain the following records for each
13.21 vehicle:

13.22 (1) an identification of the vehicle, including make, serial number, and year, and, if the
13.23 vehicle is not owned by the provider, the name and address of the person furnishing the
13.24 vehicle;

13.25 (2) a schedule of inspection and maintenance operations to be performed;

13.26 (3) a record of inspections, repairs, and maintenance showing the date and nature;

13.27 (4) a lubrication record; ~~and~~

13.28 (5) a record of tests conducted to ensure that emergency doors or windows and wheelchair
13.29 lifts function properly; and

13.30 (6) a record of trips, limited to date, time, and driver's name.

14.1 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 174.30, subdivision 4a, is amended to read:

14.2 Subd. 4a. **Certification of special transportation provider.** (a) The commissioner may
14.3 refuse to issue a certificate of compliance if an individual specified in subdivision 10,
14.4 paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3), is disqualified or is not on the provider's active roster, as
14.5 defined in section 245C.02, subdivision 17a, paragraph (b).

14.6 (b) The commissioner shall annually evaluate or provide for the evaluation of each
14.7 provider of special transportation service regulated under this section and certify that the
14.8 provider is in compliance with the standards under this section.

14.9 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 174.30, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

14.10 Subd. 8. **Administrative penalties; loss of certificate of compliance.** (a) The
14.11 commissioner may issue an order requiring violations of this section and the operating
14.12 standards adopted under this section to be corrected and assessing monetary penalties of up
14.13 to \$1,000 for all violations identified during a single inspection, investigation, or audit.
14.14 Section 221.036 applies to administrative penalty orders issued under this section or section
14.15 174.315. The commissioner shall suspend, without a hearing, a special transportation service
14.16 provider's certificate of compliance for failure to pay, or make satisfactory arrangements to
14.17 pay, an administrative penalty when due.

14.18 (b) If the commissioner determines that an individual subject to background studies
14.19 under subdivision 10, paragraph (a), is disqualified or is not on the provider's active roster,
14.20 as defined in section 245C.02, subdivision 17a, paragraph (b), the commissioner must issue
14.21 a written notice ordering the special transportation service provider to immediately cease
14.22 permitting the individual to perform services or functions listed in subdivision 10, paragraph
14.23 (a). The written notice must include a warning that failure to comply with the order may
14.24 result in the suspension or revocation of the provider's certificate of compliance under this
14.25 section.

14.26 (c) The commissioner may suspend or revoke a provider's certificate of compliance upon
14.27 determining that, following receipt by a provider of written notice under paragraph (b), the
14.28 individual has continued to perform services or functions listed in subdivision 10, paragraph
14.29 (a), for the provider. A provider whose certificate is suspended or revoked may appeal the
14.30 commissioner's action in a contested case proceeding under chapter 14.

14.31 (d) If the commissioner determines that a provider has failed to pay the decal fees as
14.32 required by subdivision 4, the commissioner must send written notice by certified mail
14.33 ordering the provider to pay the applicable fees within 60 days after the notice was mailed.

15.1 (e) The commissioner may suspend a provider's certificate of compliance if the provider
15.2 fails to submit the required payment after receiving written notice under paragraph (d). A
15.3 provider whose certificate is suspended may appeal the commissioner's action in a contested
15.4 case proceeding under chapter 14.

15.5 ~~(d)~~ (f) Penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state treasury and
15.6 credited to the trunk highway fund.

15.7 Sec. 19. [216F.015] REQUIREMENTS CODED ELSEWHERE.

15.8 Requirements governing certain towers are established in section 360.915.

15.9 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 299D.03, is amended by adding a subdivision
15.10 to read:

15.11 Subd. 2a. **Salary and benefits survey.** (a) By January 1 of 2021, 2023, 2027, and 2031,
15.12 the legislative auditor must conduct a compensation and benefit survey of law enforcement
15.13 officers in every police department:

15.14 (1) in a city with a population in excess of 25,000, located in a metropolitan county, as
15.15 defined in section 473.121, subdivision 4, that is represented by a union certified by the
15.16 Bureau of Mediation Services; or

15.17 (2) in a city of the first class.

15.18 The State Patrol must also be included in the survey.

15.19 (b) The legislative auditor must base the survey on compensation and benefits for the
15.20 past completed calendar year. The survey must be based on full-time equivalent employees.
15.21 The legislative auditor must calculate compensation using base salary, overtime wages, and
15.22 premium pay. Premium pay is payment that is received by a majority of employees and
15.23 includes, but is not limited to, education pay and longevity pay. The legislative auditor must
15.24 not include any payments made to officers or troopers for work performed for an entity
15.25 other than the agency that employs the officer or trooper, regardless of who makes the
15.26 payment. The legislative auditor must also include in the survey all benefits, including
15.27 insurance, retirement, and pension benefits. The legislative auditor must include contributions
15.28 from both the employee and employer when determining benefits.

15.29 (c) The legislative auditor must compile the survey results into a report. The report must
15.30 show each department separately. For each department, the survey must include:

16.1 (1) an explanation of the salary structure, and include minimum and maximum salaries
16.2 for each range or step; and

16.3 (2) an explanation of benefits offered, including the options that are offered and the
16.4 employee and employer contribution for each option.

16.5 Wherever possible, the report must be designed so that the data for each department is in
16.6 the same table or grid format to facilitate easy comparison.

16.7 (d) By January 15 of 2021, 2023, 2027, and 2031, the legislative auditor must transmit
16.8 the survey report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives
16.9 and senate committees with jurisdiction over the State Patrol budget.

16.10 (e) It is the legislature's intent to use the information in this study to compare salaries
16.11 between the identified police departments and the State Patrol and to make appropriate
16.12 increases to patrol trooper salaries. For purposes of this paragraph, "patrol troopers" has the
16.13 meaning given in subdivision 2, paragraph (a).

16.14 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

16.15 **Sec. 21. [360.915] METEOROLOGICAL TOWERS.**

16.16 Subdivision 1. **Definition.** (a) For purposes of this section, "stand-alone meteorological
16.17 tower" means a structure, whether self-standing or supported by guy wires and ground
16.18 anchors, that:

16.19 (1) is designed with accessory facilities on which antenna, sensor, camera, meteorological,
16.20 or other equipment is able to be mounted;

16.21 (2) has a height of at least 50 feet and not more than 200 feet; and

16.22 (3) has a diameter of ten feet or less at the aboveground base, excluding concrete footing.

16.23 (b) A stand-alone meteorological tower does not include a structure that is:

16.24 (1) affixed or adjacent to a building, including a house, barn, or utility station;

16.25 (2) an electric transmission or distribution line;

16.26 (3) a streetlight erected or maintained by a governmental entity;

16.27 (4) a wind energy conversion system, as defined in section 216F.01, subdivision 4, that
16.28 has rotor blades with a length of more than six feet;

16.29 (5) a facility registered with the Federal Communications Commission or any structure
16.30 with the primary purpose of supporting telecommunications equipment, including microwave

17.1 relay facilities and towers erected for the purpose of providing commercial mobile radio
17.2 service or commercial mobile data service, as the terms are defined in Code of Federal
17.3 Regulations, title 47, section 20.3; or

17.4 (6) a utility pole located in the public right-of-way.

17.5 Subd. 2. **Application; location.** The requirements of this section do not apply to a
17.6 stand-alone meteorological tower that is located:

17.7 (1) within the curtilage of a farmstead; or

17.8 (2) in a statutory or home rule charter city or town.

17.9 Subd. 3. **Visibility; marking.** A stand-alone meteorological tower must:

17.10 (1) be painted in equal-width bands of solid color over its entire length, alternating
17.11 between aviation orange and white so that orange is at the top of the tower and at the base
17.12 of the tower;

17.13 (2) have at least two spherical markers attached to each of the highest or outside guy
17.14 wires that are:

17.15 (i) painted solid aviation orange; and

17.16 (ii) placed so that one is within 15 feet of the upper anchor point of the guy wire;

17.17 (3) have a high-visibility sleeve on each guy wire, which must extend at least seven feet
17.18 from the lower anchor point of each guy wire; and

17.19 (4) have a flashing red light placed at the top of the tower that is compatible with a night
17.20 vision imaging system, as determined by the commissioner.

17.21 Subd. 4. **Notifications.** (a) At least 30 days prior to erecting a stand-alone meteorological
17.22 tower, the tower owner must provide notice to the commissioner in the manner specified
17.23 by the commissioner. The notice must identify:

17.24 (1) the tower owner's name and contact information;

17.25 (2) the name and contact information of any tower owner's representative;

17.26 (3) the height above ground level of the tower, including its base;

17.27 (4) the elevation of the tower site; and

17.28 (5) global positioning system coordinates of the center of the tower.

17.29 (b) The tower owner must notify the commissioner within 15 days of any change in any
17.30 information provided under paragraph (a).

18.1 (c) The tower owner must notify the commissioner within 30 days after removal of a
18.2 stand-alone meteorological tower.

18.3 Subd. 5. **Fee.** The owner of a stand-alone meteorological tower who provides notice
18.4 under subdivision 4, paragraph (a), must pay a fee of \$50. A fee is not imposed for a
18.5 notification provided under subdivision 4, paragraphs (b) and (c).

18.6 Subd. 6. **Administration.** (a) The commissioner must maintain records on stand-alone
18.7 meteorological towers under this section and must provide information on stand-alone
18.8 meteorological tower locations on the department's website.

18.9 (b) The commissioner must deposit revenue received under this section in the state
18.10 airports fund.

18.11 Subd. 7. **Penalty.** The owner of a stand-alone meteorological tower who violates the
18.12 requirements under subdivision 3 or 4, paragraph (a), is guilty of a misdemeanor.

18.13 Subd. 8. **Implementation; existing towers.** The owner of a stand-alone meteorological
18.14 tower erected prior to the effective date of this section must meet the requirements of this
18.15 section within one year of the effective date of this section.

18.16 Sec. 22. Laws 2019, First Special Session chapter 3, article 2, section 34, subdivision 2,
18.17 is amended to read:

18.18 **Subd. 2. Driver and Vehicle Systems Oversight Committee established.** (a) The
18.19 Driver and Vehicle Systems Oversight Committee is established and consists of the following
18.20 members:

18.21 (1) the chair of the senate Finance Committee, or a senator appointed by the chair of the
18.22 senate Finance Committee;

18.23 (2) the chair and ranking minority member of the senate committee with jurisdiction
18.24 over transportation finance;

18.25 (3) the chair of the house of representatives Ways and Means Committee, or a member
18.26 of the house of representatives appointed by the chair of the house of representatives Ways
18.27 and Means Committee; and

18.28 (4) the chair and ranking minority member of the house of representatives committee
18.29 with jurisdiction over transportation finance.

18.30 (b) The chair of the Blue Ribbon Council on Information Technology, or the chair's
18.31 designee, must serve on the committee as a nonvoting member. If the council expires or is
18.32 dissolved, ~~this position on the committee is discontinued.~~ the chair of the council at the time

19.1 of expiration or dissolution, or the chair's designee, must continue to serve on the committee
19.2 as a nonvoting member until the committee expires as provided by subdivision 8.

19.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

19.4 Sec. 23. Laws 2019, First Special Session chapter 3, article 3, section 120, is amended to
19.5 read:

19.6 Sec. 120. **LEGISLATIVE ROUTE NO. 112 REMOVED; PARTIAL REMOVAL.**

19.7 (a) Minnesota Statutes, section 161.115, subdivision 43, is ~~repealed~~ modified effective
19.8 the day after the commissioner of transportation receives copies of the agreements between
19.9 the commissioner and the governing bodies of Dakota County, and the city of South St.
19.10 Paul, ~~and the city of St. Paul~~ to transfer jurisdiction of portions of Legislative Route No.
19.11 112 and after the commissioner ~~notifies the revisor of statutes under paragraph (b).~~

19.12 ~~(b) The revisor of statutes shall delete the route identified in paragraph (a) from Minnesota~~
19.13 ~~Statutes when the commissioner of transportation sends notice to the revisor electronically~~
19.14 ~~or in writing that the conditions required to transfer the route have been satisfied.~~

19.15 Sec. 24. Laws 2020, chapter 71, article 2, section 15, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

19.16 Subd. 2. **Licenses and identification cards.** (a) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes,
19.17 sections 171.07, subdivision 4; 171.186, subdivision 4; and 171.27, the expiration date is
19.18 extended for any valid driver's license, including but not limited to an instruction permit,
19.19 provisional license, operator's permit, limited license, and farm work license, and any
19.20 Minnesota identification card, issued under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 171, that absent
19.21 this subdivision would otherwise expire (1) during the peacetime public health emergency
19.22 period, ~~or~~ (2) on any day of the month in which the peacetime public health emergency
19.23 period terminates, or (3) on any day of the month following the month in which the peacetime
19.24 public health emergency period terminates.

19.25 (b) An extension in this subdivision is provided to the last day of the second consecutive
19.26 month following the month in which the peacetime public health emergency period
19.27 terminates.

19.28 (c) No fee or surcharge under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 171, is imposed for an
19.29 extension under this subdivision.

19.30 (d) An extension under this subdivision does not alter the expiration date for subsequent
19.31 license or Minnesota identification card renewals. Nothing in this subdivision prevents

20.1 suspension, cancellation, revocation, or disqualification as provided in Minnesota Statutes,
20.2 chapter 168, 169, 169A, 171, 260B, 260C, or any other chapter.

20.3 (e) The authority in this subdivision does not apply:

20.4 (1) to issuance of a new driver's license or Minnesota identification card, except as
20.5 provided in subdivision 3;

20.6 (2) to reinstatement of a canceled, suspended, or revoked license; and

20.7 (3) to a person who is no longer eligible for the license or Minnesota identification card.

20.8 (f) The commissioner of public safety must ensure that the driving record of a person
20.9 whose driver's license expiration date is extended pursuant to this subdivision indicates that
20.10 the person's driver's license is valid until the extension expires as provided in this subdivision.
20.11 The commissioner must ensure, as far as practicable, that this information is available to
20.12 law enforcement and other entities outside the state of Minnesota.

20.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

20.14 Sec. 25. **FEDERAL FUNDS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

20.15 (a) For purposes of this section, "federal funds" means any funding received by the state
20.16 from the federal government pursuant to any federal law, rule, grant, or loan relating to the
20.17 infectious disease known as COVID-19. This includes but is not limited to the Coronavirus
20.18 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136.

20.19 (b) The commissioner of transportation must report all expenditures of federal funds to
20.20 the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction
20.21 over transportation finance and policy by February 15, 2021, and annually thereafter until
20.22 all federal funds are expended. The report must include the total amount of each expenditure,
20.23 the purpose of each expenditure, and any additional information the commissioner determines
20.24 is necessary to properly document each expenditure.

20.25 (c) The commissioner of public safety must report all expenditures of federal funds
20.26 relating to driver and vehicle services and the State Patrol to the chairs and ranking minority
20.27 members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over transportation finance and
20.28 policy by February 15, 2021, and annually thereafter until all federal funds are expended.
20.29 The report must include the total amount of each expenditure, the purpose of each
20.30 expenditure, and any additional information the commissioner determines is necessary to
20.31 properly document each expenditure.

21.1 (d) The chair of the Metropolitan Council must report all expenditures of federal funds
21.2 to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction
21.3 over transportation finance and policy or the Metropolitan Council by February 15, 2021,
21.4 and annually thereafter until all federal funds are expended. The report must include the
21.5 total amount of each expenditure, the purpose of each expenditure, and any additional
21.6 information the chair determines is necessary to properly document each expenditure.

21.7 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

21.8 **Sec. 26. LEGISLATIVE ROUTE NO. 237 REMOVED.**

21.9 (a) Minnesota Statutes, section 161.115, subdivision 168, is repealed effective the day
21.10 after the commissioner of transportation receives a copy of the agreement between the
21.11 commissioner and the governing body of Stearns County to transfer jurisdiction of Legislative
21.12 Route No. 237 and after the commissioner notifies the revisor of statutes under paragraph
21.13 (b).

21.14 (b) The revisor of statutes shall delete the route identified in paragraph (a) from Minnesota
21.15 Statutes when the commissioner of transportation sends notice to the revisor electronically
21.16 or in writing that the conditions required to transfer the route have been satisfied.

21.17 **Sec. 27. NONCOMPLIANT DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICATION; NEW**
21.18 **PHOTOGRAPH AND EYE EXAMINATION NOT REQUIRED.**

21.19 (a) This section applies to applications for noncompliant driver's licenses or identification
21.20 card made on or before June 30, 2021, if the applicant's name, address, signature, and driver's
21.21 license number have not changed.

21.22 (b) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 171.13, or Minnesota Rules, part
21.23 7410.2400, subpart 1, an applicant for a noncompliant driver's license or identification card
21.24 is not required to undergo a vision examination if the Department of Public Safety has a
21.25 record that the applicant passed an examination of the applicant's eyesight.

21.26 (c) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 171.071, or Minnesota Rules, chapter
21.27 7410, an applicant for a noncompliant driver's license or identification card is not required
21.28 to appear in person to have a new photograph taken if the commissioner of public safety
21.29 has a photograph of the applicant on file. If there is such a photograph on file, the
21.30 commissioner must use the photograph for the applicant's driver's license or identification
21.31 card.

22.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective two weeks following final enactment or
22.2 on the date the changes required by this section are implemented, whichever is earlier. If
22.3 the changes required by this section are implemented earlier than two weeks after final
22.4 enactment, the commissioner of public safety must notify the revisor of statutes of the date.

22.5 Sec. 28. **REQUIRING USE OF WARNING LIGHTS AND STOP ARMS ON**
22.6 **SCHOOL BUSES WHEN MAKING DELIVERIES TO STUDENTS.**

22.7 (a) For purposes of this section, "peacetime public health emergency period" means the
22.8 duration of any peacetime emergency declared by the governor in an executive order that
22.9 relates to the infectious disease known as COVID-19, but ending no later than January 31,
22.10 2021.

22.11 (b) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 169.443, subdivision 3, during a
22.12 peacetime public health emergency period, a school bus driver must activate the prewarning
22.13 flashing amber signals or flashing red signals and the stop arm signal when the school bus
22.14 is stopped on a street or highway to deliver or drop off food, schoolwork, supplies, or other
22.15 items for students.

22.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

22.17 Sec. 29. **ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND MONEY FROM UNORGANIZED**
22.18 **TOWNSHIPS; AITKIN COUNTY.**

22.19 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 163.06, subdivision 4, the road and bridge
22.20 fund tax money collected from unorganized townships in Aitkin County need not be set
22.21 apart in separate funds for each township. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
22.22 163.06, subdivision 5, road and bridge fund tax money that is collected from the various
22.23 unorganized townships may be expended by the Aitkin County Board in any of the
22.24 unorganized townships in the county.

22.25 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day after the Aitkin County Board
22.26 of Commissioners and its chief clerical officer timely complete their compliance with
22.27 Minnesota Statutes, section 645.021, subdivisions 2 and 3.

22.28 Sec. 30. **REPEALER.**

22.29 (a) Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 169.86, subdivision 3b, is repealed.

22.30 (b) Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 174.30, subdivision 4b, is repealed.

- 23.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Paragraph (a) is effective the day following final enactment.
- 23.2 Paragraph (b) is effective August 1, 2020.

169.86 SPECIAL PERMIT TO EXCEED HEIGHT, WIDTH, OR LOAD; FEES.

Subd. 3b. **Escort vehicles.** The commissioner or local authority shall specify in the permit:

(1) the minimum number of escort vehicles required to escort the overdimensional load; and

(2) whether the operators of the escort vehicles must be certified licensed peace officers or may be overdimensional load escort drivers who hold a current certificate under section 299D.085.

174.30 OPERATING STANDARDS FOR SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE.

Subd. 4b. **Variance from the standards.** A nonemergency medical transportation provider who was not subject to the standards in this section prior to July 1, 2014, must apply for a variance from the commissioner if the provider cannot meet the standards by January 1, 2017. The commissioner may grant or deny the variance application. Variances, if granted, shall not exceed 60 days unless extended by the commissioner.