

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 3071

03/22/2023 Authored by Tabke and Stephenson

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to transportation; creating a Plain Language Driver's Manual and Written  
1.3 Examination Working Group; requiring a report; appropriating money.

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

1.5 Section 1. PLAIN LANGUAGE DRIVER'S MANUAL AND WRITTEN  
1.6 EXAMINATION WORKING GROUP.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Creation. The Plain Language Driver's Manual and Written Examination  
1.8 Working Group is established to study accessibility and equity issues concerning confusing  
1.9 and complex language in Minnesota's driver's license examination process. The working  
1.10 group consists of the following 15 members:

1.11 (1) two senators, including one member from the majority party and one member from  
1.12 the minority party, appointed by the Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on  
1.13 Rules and Administration of the senate;

1.14 (2) two members of the house of representatives, including one member appointed by  
1.15 the speaker of the house and one member appointed by the minority leader;

1.16 (3) the director of the Division of Driver and Vehicle Services or a designee;

1.17 (4) the commissioner of public safety or a designee who must not be the director of the  
1.18 Division of Driver and Vehicle Services;

1.19 (5) two Minnesota teachers currently licensed as a teacher of English as a second  
1.20 language, one of whom must teach in the seven-county metropolitan area and one of whom  
1.21 must teach outside of the seven-county metropolitan area;

2.1 (6) one Minnesota driver education instructor who teaches driver education at a  
 2.2 commercial driver training school;

2.3 (7) one Minnesota teacher currently licensed for driver training by the Professional  
 2.4 Educator Licensing and Standards Board;

2.5 (8) two members of the public between the ages of 18 and 25 who:

2.6 (i) are currently licensed to drive in Minnesota;

2.7 (ii) completed a driver's education program offered at a public school, private school,  
 2.8 or commercial driver training school; and

2.9 (iii) were enrolled in an English as a second language or bilingual education program  
 2.10 while in high school;

2.11 (9) one member of the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs;

2.12 (10) one member of the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage; and

2.13 (11) one member of the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

2.14 Subd. 2. **Duties and report.** (a) For purposes of this subdivision, "plain language" means  
 2.15 writing that is clear, concise, well-organized, and follows other best practices appropriate  
 2.16 to the subject or field and intended audience.

2.17 (b) The working group must identify strategies, recommendations, and a process for  
 2.18 rewriting the Division of Driver and Vehicle Services driver's manual and written driver's  
 2.19 license examination in simple and clear language under the guidelines established by the  
 2.20 federal Plain Writing Act, Public Law 111-274, to make the examination more accessible  
 2.21 to the public and a more equitable assessment of driving knowledge. The working group  
 2.22 must:

2.23 (1) review, analyze, and provide comment on federal plain language writing guidelines;

2.24 (2) review the current driver's manual and written driver's license examination for clarity  
 2.25 based on federal plain language guidelines;

2.26 (3) analyze how to incorporate plain language best practices into the driver's manual  
 2.27 and written driver's license examination;

2.28 (4) suggest any needed revisions to the driver's manual and written driver's license  
 2.29 examination based on federal plain language guidelines;

2.30 (5) report proposed strategies to make the driver's manual and written driver's license  
 2.31 examination more readable and accessible;

3.1 (6) take testimony and public comment from bilingual or English as a second language  
3.2 Minnesotans who have taken the written driver's license examination in English; and

3.3 (7) draft legislation, including any recommended changes to current Minnesota Statutes,  
3.4 section 171.13, or any recommended changes to the Division of Driver and Vehicle Services  
3.5 Test Maintenance Committee.

3.6 (c) By July 1, 2024, the working group must submit a report to the chairs and ranking  
3.7 minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over transportation. The  
3.8 report must state findings and recommendations concerning the current driver's manual and  
3.9 written driver's license examination and how they can be revised to include plain language  
3.10 best practices. The report must state findings on recommending the development of a new  
3.11 plain language written examination for driver's license applicants based on the application  
3.12 of plain language best practices.

3.13 Subd. 3. **Administrative provisions.** (a) The commissioner of public safety or the  
3.14 commissioner's designee must convene the initial meeting of the working group by August  
3.15 1, 2023. Upon request of the working group, the commissioner must provide meeting space  
3.16 and administrative services for the group. The members of the working group must elect  
3.17 cochairs from the legislative members of the working group at the initial meeting.

3.18 (b) Public members of the working group serve without compensation or payment of  
3.19 expenses.

3.20 (c) The working group expires on January 1, 2025, or upon submission of the report  
3.21 required under subdivision 2, whichever is earlier.

3.22 Subd. 4. **Deadline for appointments and designations.** The appointments and  
3.23 designations authorized by this section must be completed by July 1, 2023.

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

3.25 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.26 \$...... in fiscal year ... is appropriated from the general fund to the Legislative Coordinating  
3.27 Commission for the purposes of the working group established in section 1.

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