

### CHAPTER 171

#### DRIVERS LICENSES AND DRIVER TRAINING SCHOOLS

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#### DRIVERS LICENSES

**171.01 DEFINITIONS.** Subdivision 1. Unless the language or context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended, the following words, terms, and phrases, for the purposes of this chapter, shall be given the meanings subjoined to them.

Subd. 2. **Vehicle.** Every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon any highway, excepting devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

Subd. 3. **Motor vehicle.** Every vehicle which is self-propelled and any vehicle propelled or drawn by a self-propelled vehicle, and not deriving its power from overhead wires except snowmobiles.

Subd. 4. **Farm tractor.** Every motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing-machines and other implements of husbandry.

Subd. 5. **Person.** Every natural person, firm, copartnership, association, or corporation.

Subd. 6. **Driver.** Every person, other than a chauffeur, who drives or is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle upon a highway.

Subd. 7. **Chauffeur.** Every person who is employed for the principal purpose of operating a motor vehicle, and every person who drives a motor vehicle while in use as a carrier of persons or property for hire.

Subd. 8. **Owner.** Any person, firm, copartnership, association, or corporation who holds the legal title to a vehicle, or in the event a vehicle is the subject of an agreement for the conditional sale or lease thereof with the right of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right of possession vested in the conditional vendee or lessee, or in the event a mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then such conditional vendee or lessee or mortgagor shall be deemed the owner for the purposes of this chapter.

Subd. 9. **Nonresident.** Every person who is not a resident of this state.

Subd. 10. **Street or highway.** The entire width between property lines of every way or place of whatever nature when any part thereof is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for purpose of vehicular traffic.

Subd. 11. **Commissioner.** The commissioner of public safety of the state of Minnesota, acting directly or through his duly authorized agents.

Subd. 12. **Department.** The department of public safety of the state, acting directly or through its duly authorized officers and agents.

Subd. 13. **Conviction.** The term "conviction" means a final conviction either after trial or upon a plea of guilty; also a forfeiture of cash or collateral deposited to guarantee a defendant's appearance in court, which forfeiture has not been vacated, is equivalent to a conviction.

Subd. 14. **"License"** means any operator's license or any other license or per-

mit to operate a motor vehicle issued or issuable under the laws of this state by the commissioner of public safety including:

- a. Any temporary license or instruction permit;
- b. The privilege of any person to drive a motor vehicle whether or not such person holds a valid license;

c. Any non-resident's operating privilege as defined herein.

[1939 c 401 s 1, 16, par (c); 1965 c 51 s 24-35; 1967 c 385 s 1; 1969 c 695 s 12; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 18] (2720-142, 2720-145a)

**171.015 DRIVER'S LICENSE DIVISION.** Subdivision 1. A division in the department of public safety to be known as the driver's license division is hereby created, under the supervision and control of a director who is appointed by the commissioner to serve at his pleasure in the unclassified service of the state civil service and he shall be assigned the duties and responsibilities prescribed in this section.

Subd. 2. All the powers and duties now vested in or imposed upon the department of highways and the commissioner of highways in regard to drivers' licensing and safety responsibility as prescribed by chapters 169, 170 and 171, are hereby transferred to, vested in, and imposed upon the commissioner of public safety. The duties and responsibilities of the department of highways and the commissioner of highways, in relation to such matters as heretofore constituted, are hereby abolished.

Subd. 3. The commissioner of public safety, with the approval of the governor, may transfer and assign to the driver's license division duties and responsibilities in relation to chauffeurs' licensing and school bus drivers' licensing as vested in and imposed upon the division of motor vehicles.

Subd. 4. Upon the effective date of this act the individual occupying the position of driver license director shall retain such position for a period of at least 12 months, or until removed for cause.

Subd. 5. All the powers and duties now vested in or imposed upon the department of education and the department of highways relating to drivers' training as prescribed by section 171.04, are hereby transferred to, vested in, and imposed upon the commissioner of public safety. The duties of the department of education and the department of highways with reference to such training as heretofore constituted are hereby abolished.

Subd. 6. The commissioner of highways shall provide space as required for driver and chauffeur license activities at such locations and under such contractual conditions as may be determined with the commissioner of public safety.

[1969 c 1129 art 1 s 18]

**171.02 LICENSE; SURRENDER OF OTHER LICENSES.** No person, except those hereinafter expressly exempted, shall drive any motor vehicle upon any street or highway in this state unless such person has a valid license as a driver under the provisions of this chapter. No person shall receive a driver's license unless and until he surrenders to the department all valid driver's licenses in his possession issued to him by any other jurisdiction. All surrendered licenses shall be returned by the department to the issuing department together with information that licensee is now licensed in new jurisdiction. No person shall be permitted to have more than one valid driver's license at any time.

[1939 c 401 s 2; 1963 c 393 s 1] (2720-143)

**171.03 PERSONS EXEMPT.** The following persons are exempt from license hereunder:

(1) Persons licensed as chauffeurs under the laws of the state of Minnesota while operating motor vehicles in the performance of their duties as such chauffeurs;

(2) Any person while driving or operating a motor vehicle in the service of the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States;

(3) Any person while driving or operating any farm tractor, or implement of husbandry temporarily operated or moved on a highway;

(4) A nonresident who is at least 15 years of age and who has in his immediate possession a valid driver's license issued to him in his home state or country may operate a motor vehicle in this state only as a driver;

(5) Any nonresident who is at least 18 years of age, whose home state or country does not require the licensing of drivers may operate a motor vehicle as a driver, only for a period of not more than 90 days in any calendar year if the motor vehicle so operated is duly registered for the current calendar year in the home state or country of such nonresident.

(6) Any person over 21 years of age who becomes a resident of the state of Minnesota and who has in his possession a valid driver's license issued to him under and pursuant to the laws of some other state or province or by military authorities of the United States may operate a motor vehicle as a driver, only for a period of not more than 60 days after becoming a resident of this state without being required to have a Minnesota driver's license as provided in this chapter;

(7) Any person operating a snowmobile, as defined in section 84.81.

[1939 c 401 s 3; 1943 c 331 s 2; 1955 c 496 s 1; 1969 c 695 s 13] (2720-144)

**171.04 PERSONS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR DRIVER'S LICENSES.** The department shall not issue a driver's license hereunder:

(1) To any person who is under the age of 16 years; nor, after January 1, 1967, to any person under 18 years unless such person shall have successfully completed a course in driver education, including both classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction, approved by the department of public safety or, in the case of a course offered by a private, commercial driver education school or institute employing driver education instructors, by the department of public safety, except when such person has completed a course of driver education in another state or has a previously issued valid license from another state or country; nor to any person under 18 years unless the application of license is approved by either parent when both reside in the same household as the minor applicant, otherwise the parent having custody or with whom the minor is living in the event there is no court order for custody, or guardian having the custody of such minor, or in the event a person under the age of 18 has no living father, mother or guardian, the license shall not be issued to such person unless his application therefor is approved by his employer. Behind-the-wheel driver education courses offered in any public school shall be open for enrollment to persons between the ages of 15 and 18 years residing in the school district or attending school therein. Any public school offering behind-the-wheel driver education courses may charge an enrollment fee for the behind-the-wheel driver education course which shall not exceed the actual cost thereof to the public school and the school district. The approval required herein shall contain a verification of the age of the applicant;

(2) To any person whose license has been suspended during the period of suspension except that a suspended license may be reinstated during the period of suspension upon the licensee furnishing proof of financial responsibility in the same manner as provided in the safety responsibility act;

(3) To any person whose license has been revoked except upon furnishing proof of financial responsibility in the same manner as provided in the safety responsibility act and if otherwise qualified;

(4) To any person who is an habitual drunkard as determined by competent authority or is addicted to the use of narcotic drugs;

(5) To any person who has been adjudged legally incompetent by reason of mental illness, mental deficiency, or inebriation, and has not been restored to capacity, unless the department is satisfied that such person is competent to operate a motor vehicle with safety to persons or property;

(6) To any person who is required by this chapter to take an examination, unless such person shall have successfully passed such examination;

(7) To any person who is required under the provisions of the safety responsibility laws of this state to deposit proof of financial responsibility and who has not deposited such proof;

(8) To any person when the commissioner has good cause to believe that the operation of a motor vehicle on the highways by such person would be inimical to public safety or welfare;

(9) To any person when, in the opinion of the commissioner, such person is afflicted with or suffering from such physical or mental disability or disease as will affect such person in a manner to prevent him from exercising reasonable and ordinary control over a motor vehicle while operating the same upon the highways; nor to a person who is unable to read and understand official signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic.

[1939 c 401 s 4; 1941 c 517; 1957 c 564 s 1; 1963 c 382 s 1; 1965 c 78 s 1; 1965 c 795 s 1; 1967 c 61 s 1; 1967 c 839 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 18] (2720-144a)

**171.041 RESTRICTED LICENSES FOR FARM WORK.** Notwithstanding any provisions of section 171.04, relating to the age of an applicant to the contrary, the commissioner may issue a restricted farm work license to operate a motor vehicle to a person who has attained the age of 15 years but who is under the age of 16

years and who, except for his age, is qualified to hold a driver's license. The restricted license shall be issued solely for the purpose of authorizing the person to whom the restricted license is issued to assist his parents or guardians with farm work. A person holding such a restricted license may operate a motor vehicle only during daylight hours and only within a radius of 20 miles of his parent's or guardian's farmhouse; however, in no case may a person holding such a restricted license operate a motor vehicle in a city of the first class. An applicant for a restricted license shall apply to the commissioner for the license on forms prescribed by the commissioner. The application shall be accompanied by a written verified statement by the applicant's parent or guardian setting forth the necessity for the license.

[1963 c 382 s 3; 1967 c 87 s 1]

**171.05 INSTRUCTION PERMITS.** Subdivision 1. Any person who, except for his lack of instruction in operating a motor vehicle, would otherwise be qualified to obtain a driver's license under this chapter, may apply for an instruction permit and the department shall issue such permit entitling the applicant, while having such permit in his immediate possession, to drive a motor vehicle upon the highways for a period of six months, but such person must be accompanied by an adult licensed driver or chauffeur who is actually occupying a seat beside the driver.

Subd. 2. Notwithstanding any provision in subdivision 1 to the contrary, the department, upon application therefor, may issue an instruction permit to an applicant who is 15 years of age and who is enrolled in an approved driver education program including behind the wheel training. Such an instruction permit holder who has the permit in his possession may operate a motor vehicle while receiving behind the wheel training in an approved driver education program, but only when accompanied by an authorized instructor who occupies the seat beside him, or during and upon completion of the course while accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian who also must occupy the seat beside the instruction permit holder.

[1939 c 401 s 5; 1949 c 91 s 1; 1961 c 33 s 1; 1963 c 382 s 2] (2720-144b)

**171.06 LICENSES, PERMITS.** Subdivision 1. **Forms of application.** Every application for an instruction permit or for a driver's license or for a duplicate license or for a renewal of a driver's license shall be made upon a form furnished by the department, and every such application shall be accompanied by the fee prescribed in subdivision 2. All such applications shall be signed in the presence of the person authorized to accept such applications, or the signature on the application shall be verified by a notary public.

Subd. 2. **Fees.** The fee for an instruction permit shall be \$1. The fee for a driver's license shall be \$3. The fee for a duplicate license shall be 50 cents.

Subd. 3. **Contents of application.** Every application shall state the full name, date of birth, sex and residence address of the applicant, a description of the applicant in such manner as the commissioner may require, and shall state whether or not the applicant has theretofore been licensed as a driver; and, if so, when and by what state or country and whether any such license has ever been suspended or revoked, or whether an application has ever been refused; and, if so, the date of and reason for such suspension, revocation, or refusal, together with such facts pertaining to the applicant and his ability to operate a motor vehicle with safety as may be required by the commissioner. Such application shall be in the form prepared by the commissioner.

Subd. 4. **Application, filing.** Any applicant for an instruction permit, a driver's license, restricted license, or duplicate license may file his application with a clerk of the district court. Such clerk shall and he is hereby authorized to receive and accept such application. To cover all expenses involved in receiving, accepting, or forwarding to the department applications and fees, the clerk of the district court shall retain ten cents of the fee collected with each application for an instruction permit or a duplicate license and 25 cents of the fee collected with each application for a driver's license or a restricted license; provided, that in all counties of this state where the clerk of the district court receives a stated salary and no fees, the amount allowed to be retained by the clerk of the district court shall be paid into the county treasury and credited to the general revenue fund of the county. The clerk of court shall forward all applications and fees, less the amount herein allowed to be retained for expense, to the department within 15 days of the receipt by him. The clerks of the district courts

may appoint agents to assist in accepting applications, but the clerks shall require every such agent to forward to the clerk by whom he is appointed all applications accepted and fees collected by him, except for the fees which an agent may charge and retain under this subdivision. The agent may charge and retain the following fees which are in addition to the fees otherwise provided by law: \$.25 for each instruction permit, driver's license, restricted license, or duplicate license application. The clerks of court shall be responsible for the acts of agents appointed by them and for the forwarding to the department of all applications accepted and those fees collected by such agents and by themselves as are required to be forwarded to the department.

[1939 c 401 s 6; 1949 c 689 s 1, 2; 1955 c 798 s 1, 2; 1957 c 564 s 2, 3; 1959 c 634 s 1; 1965 c 36 s 1] (2720-144c)

**171.07 DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE LICENSES.** The department shall, upon the payment of the required fee, issue to every applicant qualifying therefor a license as applied for, which license shall bear thereon a distinguishing number assigned to the licensee, the full name, date of birth, residence address, a description of the licensee in such manner as the commissioner deems necessary, and a space upon which the licensee shall write his usual signature with pen and ink. No license shall be valid until it has been so signed by the licensee. Every license issued to an applicant under the age of 21 shall be of a distinguishing color and plainly marked "provisional."

Each license certificate issued on or before July 1, 1964, shall be on an all plastic or laminated plastic card with the identifying information embossed thereon.

[1939 c 401 s 7; 1957 c 564 s 4; 1963 c 800 s 1] (2720-144d)

**171.08 LICENSEE TO HAVE LICENSE IN POSSESSION.** Every licensee shall have his license in his immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle and shall display the same, upon demand of a justice of the peace, a peace officer, an authorized representative of the department, or by an officer authorized by law to enforce the laws relating to the operation of motor vehicles on public streets and highways; however, no person charged with violating this requirement shall be convicted if he produces in court or the office of the arresting officer a driver's license theretofore issued to him and valid at the time of his arrest or satisfactory proof that at the time of the arrest he was validly licensed. The licensee shall also, upon request of any such officer, write his name in the presence of such officer in order that the identity of the licensee may be determined.

[1939 c 401 s 8; 1963 c 206 s 1] (2720-144e)

**171.09 COMMISSIONER MAY IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS.** The commissioner shall have the authority, when good cause appears, to impose restrictions suitable to the licensee's driving ability or such other restrictions applicable to the licensee as the commissioner may determine to be appropriate to assure the safe operation of a motor vehicle by the licensee. The commissioner may, upon receiving satisfactory evidence of any violation of the restrictions of such license, suspend or revoke the same, but the licensee shall be entitled to a hearing, as provided herein.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in any manner in violation of the restrictions imposed in a restricted license issued to him.

[1939 c. 401 s. 9] (2720-144f)

**171.10 DUPLICATE LICENSES.** In the event that an instruction permit or driver's license issued under the provisions of this chapter is lost or destroyed, or becomes illegible, the person to whom the same was issued shall obtain a duplicate thereof, furnishing proof satisfactory to the department that such permit or license has been lost or destroyed or has become illegible, and make payment of the required fee.

[1939 c. 401 s. 10] (2720-144g)

**171.11 CHANGE OF DOMICILE OR NAME.** When any person, after applying for or receiving a driver's license, shall change his permanent domicile from the address named in such application or in the license issued to him, or shall change his or her name by marriage or otherwise, such person shall, within 30 days thereafter, make application for a duplicate driver's license upon a form furnished by the department; such application or duplicate license shall show both the licensee's old address and his new address or his former name and new name as the case may be. Such application for a duplicate license, upon change of address or change of name, shall be accompanied by all certificates of driver's license then

in the possession of the applicant together with the required fee.

[1939 c. 401 s. 11; 1943 c. 610 s. 2] (2720-144h)

**171.12 FILING.** Subdivision 1. Licenses filed in alphabetical order. The department shall file every application for a license received by it and shall maintain suitable indices containing, in alphabetical order:

- (1) All applications denied, and on each thereof the reason for such denial;
- (2) All applications granted; and
- (3) The name of every person whose license has been suspended or revoked by the department, and after each such name the reasons for such action.

Subd. 2. **Accident reports and abstracts of court records of conviction filed.** The department shall file all accident reports and abstracts of court records of convictions received by it under the laws of this state and its political subdivisions, and in connection therewith maintain convenient records or make suitable notations in order that an individual record of each licensee showing the convictions of such licensee and the traffic accidents in which he has been involved shall be readily ascertainable and available for the consideration of the department upon any application for renewal of license and the revocation, suspension, or limitation of licenses. No record shall be maintained of a conviction of any Minnesota resident for an offense committed while operating a vehicle as a chauffeur in any other state or Canadian province unless such state or province is one with which Minnesota engages in reciprocal reporting of convictions.

Subd. 3. **Applications and records, when destroyed.** The department may cause the application for drivers' licenses and instruction permits, and records in connection therewith, to be destroyed immediately after the period for which issued, except that the driver's record pertaining to revocations, suspensions, convictions, and accidents shall be cumulative and kept for a period of at least five years.

Subd. 4. **Financial responsibility suspensions, destruction of records.** Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 3, the department may cause the record of financial responsibility suspensions resulting solely from the cancellation of a policy of insurance pursuant to section 170.41 to be destroyed when the need for such record has passed.

[1939 c. 401 s. 12; 1943 c. 610 s. 3; 1967 c. 205 s. 1; 1969 c. 871 s. 2] (2720-144i)

**171.13 EXAMINATION.** Subdivision 1. **Applicants.** Except as otherwise provided in this section, the commissioner shall examine each applicant for a driver's license by such agency as he directs. This examination shall include a test of applicant's eyesight; his ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic; his knowledge of traffic laws; an actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle; and any other physical and mental examinations as the commissioner finds necessary to determine the applicant's fitness to operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways, provided, further however, no driver's license shall be denied an applicant on the exclusive grounds that the applicant's eyesight is deficient in color perception. Provided, however, that war veterans operating motor vehicles especially equipped for handicapped persons, shall, if otherwise entitled to a license, be granted such license. The commissioner shall make provision for giving these examinations either in the county where the applicant resides or at a place adjacent thereto reasonably convenient to the applicant.

Subd. 2. **Renewal without examination.** A driver's license shall be issued at any time without examination to any person who has been previously licensed as a driver provided that the applicant's license has not been theretofore canceled.

Subd. 3. **Examination of licensed driver.** The commissioner may require an examination by such agency as he directs of any licensed driver, to determine incompetency, physical or mental disability or disease, or any other condition which might affect the driver from exercising reasonable and ordinary control over a motor vehicle, but no examination shall be required only for the reason that any licensed driver has attained a certain age. If as a result of the examination the commissioner believes that the driver is an unsafe person to operate a motor vehicle upon the public highways, he may cancel the driver's license of the person. The commissioner shall give the person written notice of the cancellation.

Subd. 4. **Penalty; failure to submit to examination.** If a licensee does not submit to any examination required under the provisions of subdivision 3, the commissioner may cancel the driver's license of the licensee. If such license is canceled, the licensee shall immediately surrender to the department all driver's license cer-

tificates in his possession.

[1939 c 401 s 13; 1947 c 479 s 1; 1949 c 128 s 1] (2720-144j)

**171.14 CANCELLATION.** The commissioner shall have authority to cancel any driver's license upon determination that the licensee was not entitled to the issuance thereof hereunder, or that the licensee failed to give the required or correct information in his application, or committed any fraud or deceit in making such application. The commissioner may also cancel the driver's license of any person who, at the time of the cancellation, would not have been entitled to receive a license under the provisions of section 171.04. Upon cancellation the licensee shall immediately surrender the license so canceled to the department.

[1939 c 401 s 14; 1959 c 506 s 1] (2720-144k)

**171.15 NONRESIDENT PERMITS.** The privilege of driving a motor vehicle on the highways of this state given to a nonresident hereunder shall be subject to the suspension or revocation by the commissioner in like manner and for like cause as a driver's license issued hereunder may be suspended or revoked.

The commissioner is further authorized, upon receiving a record of conviction in this state of a nonresident driver of a motor vehicle of any offense under the motor vehicle laws of this state, to forward a certified copy of such record to the motor vehicle administrator in the state wherein the person so convicted is a resident.

[1939 c. 401 s. 15] (2720-145)

**171.16 COURTS TO REPORT TO COMMISSIONER.** Every court, including district, municipal, and justice of the peace courts, having jurisdiction over offenses committed under any law of this state regulating the operation of motor vehicles on streets or highways, shall forward to the department, within ten days, a record of the conviction or plea of guilty or forfeiture of bail of any person in the court for a violation of any such laws, except parking violations and except defective vehicle equipment or vehicle size or weight violations committed by a licensed chauffeur while driving a vehicle for which a chauffeur's license is required, and may recommend the suspension of the driver's license of the person so convicted, and the commissioner is hereby authorized to suspend such license as recommended by such court, without a hearing as provided herein.

Every court having jurisdiction over offenses committed under any city or village ordinance regulating the operation of motor vehicles on streets or highways shall forward to the department, within ten days, a record of the conviction or plea of guilty or forfeiture of bail of any person in the court for a violation of any of the ordinances, except parking ordinances, and except defective vehicle equipment or vehicle size or weight violations committed by a licensed chauffeur while driving a vehicle for which a chauffeur's license is required, and may recommend the suspension of the driver's license of the person so convicted, and the commissioner is hereby authorized to suspend such license as recommended by such court, without a hearing.

When any person is convicted of any offense for which this chapter makes mandatory the revocation of the driver's license of such person by the department, or when any person is convicted of any offense for which the court in which such conviction is had recommends the suspension of the driver's license of such person, the court in which such conviction is had shall require the surrender to it of all driver's licenses then held by the person so convicted, and the court shall thereupon forward the same, together with a record of such conviction, to the department.

When any judge of a juvenile court, or any of its duly authorized agents, shall determine formally or informally that any person under the age of 18 years has violated any of the provisions of any law of this state, or ordinances of political subdivisions thereof, regulating the operation of motor vehicles on streets and highways, except parking violations, such judge, or duly authorized agent, shall immediately report such determination to the department and may recommend the suspension of the driver's license of such person, and the commissioner is hereby authorized to suspend such license, without a hearing.

[1939 c 401 s 16, *except par. (c)*; 1969 c 946 s 2] (2720-145a)

**171.17 REVOCATION.** The department shall forthwith revoke the license of any driver upon receiving a record of such driver's conviction of any of the following offenses:

- (1) Manslaughter or criminal negligence resulting from the operating of a motor vehicle;
- (2) Operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotic drug;

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- (3) Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle was used;
- (4) Failure to stop and disclose identity and render aid, as required under the laws of this state, in the event of a motor vehicle accident resulting in the death or personal injury of another;
- (5) Perjury or the making of a false affidavit or statement to the department under any law relating to the ownership or operation of a motor vehicle;
- (6) Conviction, plea of guilty, or forfeiture of bail not vacated, upon three charges of careless or reckless driving, or illegal speeding committed within a period of 12 months;
- (7) Conviction of an offense in another state which, if committed in this state, would be grounds for the revocation of the driver's license;

When any judge of a juvenile court, or any of its duly authorized agents, shall determine, formally or informally, that any person under the age of 18 years has committed any offense defined in this section, such judge, or duly authorized agent, shall immediately report such determination to the department, and the commissioner shall immediately revoke the license of that person.

Upon revoking the license of any person, as hereinbefore in this chapter authorized, the department shall immediately notify the licensee, in writing, by depositing in the United States post-office a notice addressed to the licensee at his last known address, with postage prepaid thereon.

[1939 c 401 s 17; 1951 c 483 s 1; 1961 c 32 s 1] (2720-145b)

**171.18 SUSPENSION.** The commissioner shall have authority to and may suspend the license of any driver without preliminary hearing upon a showing by department records or other sufficient evidence that the licensee:

- (1) Has committed an offense for which mandatory revocation of license is required upon conviction; or
- (2) Has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction for violation of a provision of the highway traffic regulation act or an ordinance regulating traffic and where it appears from department records that the violation for which he was convicted contributed in causing an accident resulting in the death or personal injury of another, or serious property damage; or
- (3) Is an habitually reckless or negligent driver of a motor vehicle; or
- (4) Is an habitual violator of the traffic laws; or
- (5) Is incompetent to drive a motor vehicle as determined and adjudged in a judicial proceeding; or
- (6) Has permitted an unlawful or fraudulent use of such license; or
- (7) Has committed an offense in another state which, if committed in this state, would be grounds for suspension.

Provided, however, that any action taken by the commissioner under subparagraphs (2) and (5) shall conform to the recommendation of the court when made in connection with the prosecution of the licensee.

Upon suspending the license of any person, as hereinbefore in this section authorized, the department shall immediately notify the licensee, in writing, by depositing in the United States post office a notice addressed to the licensee at his last known address, with postage prepaid thereon, and the licensee's written request shall afford him an opportunity for a hearing within not to exceed 20 days after receipt of such request in the county wherein the licensee resides, unless the department and the licensee agree that such hearing may be held in some other county. Upon such hearing the commissioner, or his duly authorized agent, may administer oaths and issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant books and papers, and may require a reexamination of the licensee. Upon such hearing the department shall either rescind its order of suspension or, good cause appearing therefor, may extend the suspension of such license or revoke such license. The department shall not suspend a license for a period of more than one year.

[1939 c 401 s 18; 1955 c 713 s 1] (2720-145c)

**171.19 PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSES.** Any person whose driver's license has been refused, revoked, suspended, or canceled by the commissioner may file a petition for a hearing in the matter in the district court in the county wherein such person shall reside and, in the case of a non-resident, in the district court in any county, and such court is hereby vested with jurisdiction, and it shall be its duty, to set the matter for hearing upon 15 days' written notice to the commissioner, and thereupon to take testimony and examine into the facts of the case to determine whether the petitioner is entitled to a license or is subject to



revocation, suspension, cancelation, or refusal of license, under the provisions of this chapter, and shall render judgment accordingly. The petition shall be heard by the court without a jury and may be heard in or out of term. The commissioner may appear in person, or by his agents or representatives, and may present his evidence upon the hearing by affidavit by himself, his agents, or representatives. The petitioner may present his evidence by affidavit, except that the petitioner must be present in person at such hearing for the purpose of cross-examination. In the event the department shall be sustained in these proceedings, the petitioner shall have no further right to make further petition to any court for the purpose of obtaining a driver's license until after the expiration of one year after the date of such hearing.

[1939 c. 401 s. 19] (2720-145d)

**171.20 LICENSES MUST BE SURRENDERED.** Subdivision 1. **Demand; enforcement.** The commissioner, upon suspending or revoking a license, shall require that all license certificates issued to the licensee shall be surrendered to and be retained by the department, except that at the end of a period of suspension the license certificate shall be returned to the licensee. Upon demand for surrender of a license by the commissioner, the licensee shall immediately forward the license certificates to the department. If any person fails to return to the commissioner the license as provided herein, the commissioner shall forthwith direct any peace officer to serve the order of suspension or revocation of the driver's license and direct such person to surrender that license.

Subd. 2. **Operation after revocation or suspension.** Any resident or non-resident whose driver's license or right or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state has been suspended, revoked, or cancelled, as provided in this chapter, shall not operate a motor vehicle in this state under license, permit, or registration certificate issued by any other jurisdiction or otherwise during such a suspension, or after such revocation until a new license is obtained when and as permitted under this chapter.

Subd. 3. **Driver improvement clinics.** The commissioner may require, before re-issuing a license which has been revoked or suspended, that the licensee complete a course of study at an approved driver improvement clinic. The commissioner may not require the licensee to complete such a course unless an approved driver improvement clinic is located within 35 miles of the licensee's residence. For purposes of this section "an approved driver improvement clinic" means a clinic whose curriculum and mode of instruction conform to standards promulgated by the commissioner.

[1939 c 401 s 20; 1961 c 44 s 1; 1965 c 711 s 6; 1969 c 9 s 32; 1969 c 118 s 2] (2720-145e)

**171.21 COPIES OF RECORDS AS EVIDENCE.** Copies of any of the files or records of the department certified by the commissioner as being true copies shall be received in evidence in any court in this state with the same force and effect as the originals.

[1939 c. 401 s. 21] (2720-145f)

**171.22 UNLAWFUL ACTS.** It shall be unlawful for any person:

(1) To display, or cause or permit to be displayed, or have in his possession, any canceled, revoked, suspended, fictitious, or fraudulently altered driver's license; or

(2) To lend his driver's license to any other person or knowingly permit the use thereof by another; or

(3) To display or represent as one's own any driver's license not issued to him; or

(4) To fail or refuse to surrender to the department, upon its lawful demand, any driver's license which has been suspended, revoked, or canceled; or

(5) To use a false or fictitious name in any application for a driver's license, or to knowingly make a false statement, or to knowingly conceal a material fact, or otherwise commit a fraud in any such application; or

(6) To alter any driver's license, or to counterfeit or make any fictitious license; or

(7) To take any part of the driver's license examination for another or to permit another to take the examination for him.

[1939 c 401 s 22; 1957 c 564 s 5; 1961 c 64 s 1; 1969 c 9 s 33] (2720-145g)

**171.23 SHALL NOT RENT MOTOR VEHICLE TO UNLICENSED DRIVER.** No person shall rent or lease a motor vehicle to any other person unless the latter

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person is then duly licensed hereunder, or, in the case of a non-resident, then duly licensed under the law of the state or country of his residence, except a non-resident whose home state or country does not require that a driver be licensed.

[1939 c. 401 s. 24] (2720-145i)

**171.24 VIOLATIONS, MISDEMEANORS; EXCEPTIONS.** Any person whose driver's license or driving privilege has been canceled, suspended or revoked as provided in this chapter who operates any motor vehicle, the operation of which requires a driver's license, upon the highways in this state while such license or privilege is canceled, suspended, or revoked is guilty of a misdemeanor; and, upon conviction, for a first offense shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 or by imprisonment for not less than ten days, and for a second and each subsequent offense shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 or by imprisonment for not less than 30 days.

It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter unless such violation is by any law declared to be a felony or a gross misdemeanor.

[1939 c 401 s 23, 25; 1943 c 331 s 3; 1947 c 479 s 2] (2720-144h, 2720-145j)

NOTE: Impounding of motor vehicle registration plates and certificates, see Section 168.041.

**171.25 ENFORCEMENT.** The commissioner shall be charged with the responsibility for the administration and execution of this chapter.

Any duties required of or powers conferred on the commissioner under the provisions of this chapter may be done and performed or exercised by any of his duly authorized agents.

[1939 c. 401 ss. 26, 27] (2720-145k, 2720-146)

**171.26 MONEYS CREDITED TO TRUNK HIGHWAY FUND.** All money received under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the trunk highway fund, and so much thereof as shall be necessary for the administration of the drivers license law and the safety responsibility act is hereby appropriated for that purpose.

[1939 c 401 s 28; 1943 c 610 s 4; 1947 c 607 s 1] (2720-146a)

NOTE: See section 15.015.

**171.27 EXPIRATION OF LICENSES.** The expiration date for each driver's license, other than provisional licenses, is the birthday of the driver in the fourth year following the date of issuance of the license. The birthday of the driver shall be as indicated on his application for a driver's license. Upon application and payment of the required fee driving privileges shall be extended or renewed on or preceding the expiration date of an existing driver's license without examination unless the commissioner believes that the licensee is no longer qualified as a driver.

The expiration date for each provisional license shall be the 21st birthday of the licensee. Upon the provisional licensee attaining the age of 21 and upon the application and payment of the required fee, a driver's license shall be issued without examination if the commissioner deems the record of the provisional licensee to be satisfactory.

Any valid driver's license issued to a person then or subsequently on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States shall continue in full force and effect without requirement for renewal until 90 days after the date of his discharge from such service.

[1939 c 401 s 29; 1943 c 610 s 1; 1947 c 479 s 3; 1951 c 29 s 1; 1957 c 564 s 6] (2720-146b)

**171.28 CITATION, DRIVERS' LICENSE LAW.** Sections 171.01 to 171.28 may be cited as the drivers' license law.

[1939 c 401 s 30]

**171.29 REVOKED LICENSES; EXAMINATION FOR NEW LICENSES.** Subdivision 1. No person whose drivers license has been revoked by reason of conviction, plea of guilty, or forfeiture of bail not vacated, upon three charges of careless or reckless driving, committed within a period of 12 months, or a person who is convicted of a charge of driving under the influence of alcoholic beverage or narcotic drug, shall be issued another license unless and until he shall have successfully passed an examination as required for an initial license.

Subd. 2. Any person who is required to take an examination as provided in subdivision 1 shall pay a fee of \$2.50 for each examination.

[1959 c 515 s 1, 2]

**171.30 LIMITED LICENSE.** In any case where a license has been suspended under Minnesota Statutes, Section 171.18 or revoked under Minnesota Statutes, Section 171.17, if the driver's livelihood depends upon the use of his driver's license, the commissioner may at his own discretion and shall upon recommendation by

the court excluding justices of the peace in which the driver was convicted, issue a limited license to such driver. The commissioner in issuing such limited license may impose such conditions and limitations as in his judgment are necessary to the interests of the public safety and welfare including re-examination as to the driver's qualifications. Such license may be limited to the operation of particular vehicles, to particular classes and times of operation and to particular conditions of traffic.

The limited license issued by the commissioner shall clearly indicate the limitations imposed and the driver operating under such limited license shall have such license in his possession at all times when operating as a driver.

In determining whether to issue a limited license, the commissioner shall consider the number and the seriousness of prior convictions and the entire driving record of the driver and shall consider the number of miles driven by such driver annually.

[1959 c 632 s 1]

**171.31 PERSONS RECEIVING BENEFITS FOR BLINDNESS, DISCOVERY OF INFORMATION.** The commissioner of public safety, in order to promote highway safety by restricting driving privileges to those persons meeting accepted visual acuity standards, may request and shall receive information concerning the identity and whereabouts of any person who has applied for or received any type of tax, welfare, licensing or other benefits or exemptions for the blind or nearly blind, from the records of all departments, boards, bureaus or other agencies of this state, and they shall provide such information notwithstanding the provisions of section 268.12, subdivision 12, section 290.61, or any other existing law or regulation to the contrary.

[1967 c 524 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 18]

**171.32 ACTION UPON INFORMATION RELATING TO BLINDNESS.** Subdivision 1. The commissioner upon receipt of any such information shall take such action as he deems necessary to insure that each such person meets the accepted visual acuity standards required of all driver's license applicants and such further action as required by law or regulation. The driver's license of any person who has been classified as legally blind shall be immediately cancelled.

Subd. 2. Any person who is notified that his driver's license may be cancelled because of a defect of visual acuity pursuant to the provisions of this section may demand and shall receive the standard visual acuity examination required of all driver's license applicants, or may be examined by a qualified physician of his choice.

Subd. 3. The results of any visual acuity examination administered because of information received pursuant to this section may be communicated by the commissioner to the department from which the person received a benefit. The information received by the commissioner pursuant to this section must not be divulged or otherwise made known in any manner except in connection with the cancellation of drivers' licenses, and then only to the person involved whose license is cancelled, and except for statistical purposes which do not reveal the identity of the individuals involved. The record of such person with respect to visual acuity shall be maintained in the same manner as all other driver license records.

[1967 c 524 s 2]

#### DRIVER TRAINING SCHOOLS

**171.33 DRIVER TRAINING SCHOOLS; DEFINITIONS.** Subdivision 1. "Commercial driver training school" or "school" means a business enterprise conducted by an individual, association, partnership, or corporation, which charges a fee, for the education and training of persons to drive motor vehicles or for the preparation of an applicant for a driver's license examination given by the state.

Subd. 2. "Instructor" means any person, whether acting for himself as operator of a commercial driver training school or as an employee of any such school, who teaches or supervises persons learning to drive motor vehicles or preparing to take an examination for a driver's license, and any person who supervises the work of any other instructor.

Subd. 3. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public safety.

[1967 c 880 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 1 s 18]

**171.34 LICENSE FOR SCHOOLS REQUIRED.** No commercial driver training school shall be established or operated after January 1, 1968 unless such school has applied for and obtained a license from the commissioner. The commissioner shall issue or adopt regulations governing the requirements for a license, which may

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include requirements concerning location, equipment, courses of instruction, previous records of the school and instructors, financial statements, filing of schedule of maximum fees and charges, character and reputation of the instructors, insurance in such sum and with such provisions as the commissioner deems necessary to protect the interests of the public, and such other matters as the commissioner may prescribe, but the applicant shall not be required to have qualified for a teacher's certificate as required in the public school system.

[1967 c 880 s 2]

**171.35 LICENSE FOR INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED.** No person shall act as an instructor after January 1, 1968 unless such person has applied for and obtained a license from the commissioner. The commissioner shall issue or adopt regulations governing the requirements for an instructor's license, which may include requirements concerning moral character, physical condition, knowledge of the courses of instruction and of motor vehicle laws and safety principles and practices, previous personnel and employment records, teaching experience and qualifications, and such other matters as the commissioner may prescribe, but the applicant shall not be required to have qualified for a teacher's certificate as required in the public school system.

[1967 c 880 s 3]

**171.36 LICENSE RENEWAL AND FEES.** All licenses shall expire one year from date of issuance and may be renewed upon application to the commissioner. Each application for an original or renewal school license shall be accompanied by a fee of \$75 and each application for an original or renewal instructor's license shall be accompanied by a fee of \$20. The license fees collected under this article shall be paid into the trunk highway fund. No license fee shall be refunded in the event that the license is rejected or revoked.

[1967 c 880 s 4]

**171.37 INSPECTION AND EXAMINATION.** The commissioner or his authorized representative shall inspect the school facilities and equipment of applicants and licensees and shall examine applicants for instructor's licenses. The commissioner shall issue or adopt such regulations and do all things necessary and proper to accomplish the purposes of this section.

[1967 c 880 s 5]

**171.38 ISSUANCE, RENEWAL, SUSPENSION, AND REVOCATION OF LICENSES.** The commissioner may revoke or refuse to issue or renew a school or instructor's license in any case where he finds the applicant or licensee has not complied with, or has violated any of the provisions of sections 171.33 to 171.41 or any regulation issued or adopted pursuant thereto. Any revoked license shall be returned to the commissioner by the licensee, and its holder cannot apply for a new license for a period as determined by the commissioner not to exceed one year from the date of such revocation.

[1967 c 880 s 6]

**171.39 EXEMPTIONS.** The provisions of sections 171.33 to 171.41 shall not apply to any person giving driver training lessons without charge, to employers maintaining driver training schools without charge for their employees only, to schools or classes conducted by colleges, universities and high schools as a part of the normal program for such institutions, nor to those schools or persons described in section 171.04, clause (1). Any person who is a certificated driver training instructor in a high school driver training program may give driver training instruction to persons over the age of 18 without acquiring a driver training school license or instructor's license, and such instructors may make a charge for that instruction, if there is no private commercial driver training school licensed under this statute within 10 miles of the municipality where such instruction is given and there is no adult drivers training program in effect in the schools of the school district in which the trainee resides.

[1967 c 880 s 7; 1969 c 6 s 29]

**171.40 PENALTIES.** Violation of any provision of sections 171.33 to 171.41 or any regulation issued or adopted pursuant thereto shall be a misdemeanor.

[1967 c 880 s 8; 1969 c 6 s 30]

**171.41 COOPERATION OF STATE AGENCIES.** The commissioner shall request and receive the assistance of other state departments and agencies in establishing regulations pursuant to sections 171.33 to 171.41.

[1967 c 880 s 9]