



DVS Driver & Vehicle Services

2025 Legislative Bulletin

June 30, 2025

This bulletin summarizes laws enacted during the 2025 regular and special legislative session that impact DVS and are of interest to staff, business partners and stakeholders. There are some minor technical corrections required as a result of new legislation that are not reflected in this list.

DVS staff will receive procedural information from supervisors on these changes.

Deputy registrars and driver's license agents will receive procedural information in future DVS Weekly Updates and monthly Time with Training sessions related to these changes.

Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS)

DVS base appropriations

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 1, Section 4, Subd. 4

Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- Ongoing funding for DVS operations, including additional exam and vehicle inspection staff across the state.
- Funding for rulemaking costs for the ignition interlock device program.
- Funding to add work zone safety information to the driver's manual and written examination, as well as any related rulemaking.
- Funding each year for payments to deputy registrars and driver's license agents to compensate them for the no-fee transactions they handle.

Reimbursements to deputy registrars and driver's license agents for no-fee transactions

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Sections 24 & 42
Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes sections 168.33, subdivision 7a and 171.061, subdivision 4

Effective: Aug. 1, 2025

What you need to know

- DRs and DLAs will be regularly reimbursed by DVS for the no-fee transactions they carry out for customers.

- These payments are based on a tiered payment scale laid out in the legislation, paying them anywhere from \$2 to the full cost of a transaction depending on the type.
- Information on this change will be communicated to stakeholders.
- DVS will determine internally the frequency of these payments and how they will administered.

Ignition interlock rulemaking

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 56
 Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.306
 Effective: Day following final enactment (June 15, 2025)

What you need to know

- DVS will conduct rulemaking to update rules related to the ignition interlock device program.

Circle Pines full-service provider

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 115
 Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 168.33
 Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- A new full-service provider (FSP) will be allowed to operate in Circle Pines, regardless of any existing restrictions related to business volume or proximity.
- DVS will open an application process and review applicants as they are received.

Loss of consciousness rulemaking

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 114
 Statutory Change: N/A
 Effective: The day following final enactment (June 15, 2025) – must be completed by July 1, 2026

What you need to know

- DVS will conduct rulemaking to update rules related to loss of consciousness. Specifically, we will amend Rule 7410, subpart 5 to add an item F.

Driver Services

Veteran designation on driver's license and state identification for Veterans of the Secret War in Laos

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Regular Session, [Chapter 30 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 9
 Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.97, subdivision 15
 Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- DVS will award this designation to veterans deemed eligible through a process established by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Ignition interlock changes (Park Tavern Bill)

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Regular Session, [Chapter 29 - MN Laws](#)

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes sections 169A.37, 169A.52, 169A.54, 169A.63, 171.09, 171.177, 171.178, 171.187, 171.19, 171.24, 171.306

Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- Various changes to the ignition interlock device program (IIDP) in response to the Park Tavern incident.
- Increased punishment for intentional removal or damage to permanent IIDP stickers.
- Enrollment in IIDP will now be allowed without needing to pay the \$680 fee first. It will be required upon completion of the program.
- Certain violations for drivers with IIDP requirement on or after Aug. 1 will upgrade them from misdemeanor to gross misdemeanor.
- Updated penalties for breath test failures and search warrant refusals.
- Enrollees will now get 1/2 time served credit prior to a BAC violation.
 - This only applies to canc-ips drivers.
- IIDP extensions are no longer reset if you are removed or terminated and must re-enroll.
- The look back period has been changed from 10 years to 20 years.
- Criminal vehicular operation (CVO) fatal offenses with 2 or more prior qualified incidents now result in a lifetime IIDP requirement.

Ignition interlock customer letters update

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Regular Session, [Chapter 29 - MN Laws](#)

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section XXX

Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- Updates are being made to customer letters to reflect the changes made to the IIDP and its statute under this new law.

IIDP guidelines update

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Regular Session, [Chapter 29 - MN Laws](#)

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section XXX

Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- Updates are being made to program guidelines to reflect the changes made to the IIDP and its statute under this new law.

Ignition interlock website and Virtual Assistant (chatbot) update

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Regular Session, [Chapter 29 - MN Laws](#)

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section XXX

Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- Updates are being made to the website and chatbot to reflect the changes made to the IIDP and its statute under this new law.

Road test definition

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 37

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.01, subdivision 45e

Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- The definition of road test has been updated in statute.
- DVS will ensure future use of this term in public documents matches the new definition.

Work zone definition

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 38

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.01, subdivision 52

Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- Work zone has been given a clear definition in statute.
- DVS will ensure future use of this term in public documents matches the new definition.

Commercial learner's permit extension

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 39

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.05, subdivision 1

Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- The permit length for higher class licenses (above Class D) will shift from 6 months to 12 months.
- DVS will communicate this change to impacted stakeholders.
- The commercial driver's manual will be updated to reflect this change.

Updates to authorized documents for proof of identity, date of birth, name change

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Sections 40-41

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.0605, subdivisions 2 and 7

Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- Marriage certificates, divorce decrees and court orders that reference a name change will become approved documents to serve as evidence of a name change.
- Marriage certificates, divorce decrees and court orders that reference a name change will no longer be permissible as evidence of identity or date of birth.
- Changes will be made to public forms and internal documents as needed to reflect this change.

Addition of work zone safety materials to driver's education

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 43

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.0701, subdivision 1c

Effective: July 1, 2026

What you need to know

- Information on work zone safety will be implemented into the driver's ed curriculum at driver's ed schools.
- DVS will audit existing driver's ed programs to determine which schools need to have their curriculum updated.
- DVS will communicate information on the change to curriculum to driver's ed schools around the state.
- DVS will work with impacted schools to implement the curriculum changes over the next year.

Addition of work zone safety materials to the driver's manual

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 44

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.0705, subdivision 2a

Effective: The day following final enactment (June 15, 2025) for manuals published on or after that date

What you need to know

- Information on work zone safety will be added into the next edition of the driver's manual.
- DVS will develop language to comprehensively relay the work zone safety information required under the new legislation.
- DVS staff will work to align the new work zone safety information in the driver's manual with the accompanying updates to driver's education and the knowledge exam.

Allowing medical head coverings for license and ID photos

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 45

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.071

Effective: The day following final enactment (June 15, 2025)

What you need to know

- Residents will now be allowed to wear medical head coverings when getting an ID or license photo taken.
- Public forms have been updated to reflect this change.

Adding work zone safety to exam subjects

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 46

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.13, subdivision 1

Effective: January 1, 2027

What you need to know

- Work zone safety will be added as a permanent subject on the knowledge exam.
- DVS will work to develop questions that align with the requirements of the new legislation and the information being added to the driver's manual and driver's education.

Increased fees for exam late cancellations and no-shows

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 47

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.13, subdivision 7

Effective: Aug. 1, 2025

What you need to know

- Increases the fee for late cancellations (\$20 if cancelled between 24 and 72 hours before the appointment) and no-shows (\$40) of exam appointments.
- DVS will inform potential customers of this change.
- The DVS website will be updated to reflect this change.

Reintegration length

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 52

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.301, subdivision 5

Effective: The day following final enactment (June 15, 2025)

What you need to know

- The reintegration license will now expire after 24 months instead of 15.
- The Class D reintegration license will be updated to reflect this change.
- Internal documents and public forms will be updated as needed to reflect this change.

Reintegration grace period

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 53

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.301, subdivision 6

Effective: The day following final enactment (June 15, 2025)

What you need to know

- A 90-day grace period for reintegration expiration will be established for purposes of applying for a full credential and issuing a license (assuming all other requirements are met).
- The Class D reintegration license will be updated to reflect this change.
- Internal documents and public forms will be updated as needed to reflect this change.

Flexible instruction permitted

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 57

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 171.397

Effective: August 1, 2025

What you need to know

- Students will be allowed to complete their driver's education training in more than one format (in person, online, etc.)
- Driver's education programs will be notified of this change.
- Students and potential students will be notified of this change.

Vehicle Services

Expanded participation in auto shows

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 4 - MN Laws](#), Article 7, Section 13

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 168.27, subdivision 10a

Effective: The day following final enactment (June 15, 2025)

What you need to know

- Motor vehicle dealers will now be allowed to display at auto shows outside of the county they are licensed in.
- DVS staff will cover this with dealers in upcoming training sessions.

Impound related items

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Regular Session, [Chapter 29 - MN Laws](#), Sections 7-8

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 169A.60, subdivisions 5 and 6

Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- The timeframe for surrender of plates and a temporary permit will change from 7 to 14 days.
- DVS will ensure all programming, letters and other communications have been updated to reflect this change.

Contiguous state auto dealers

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 14

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 168.002, subdivision 6

Effective: October 1, 2025

What you need to know

- DVS may designate a motor vehicle dealer licensed under the laws of a contiguous state as a dealer or licensed dealer in Minnesota.
- DVS will develop internal standards to evaluate out of state dealers during the application process.

EV and PHEV surcharge changes

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Sections 15-17

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes sections 168.013, subdivisions 1a, 1m, and 1n

Effective: Effective the day following final enactment (June 15, 2025) for the registration period beginning January 1, 2026

What you need to know

- The surcharge for electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles will increase.
- DVS will remove reference to the EV surcharge from the hold harmless clause.
- DVS will adopt a surcharge for electric vehicles that is the greater of either a calculation based on the vehicle's MSRP or a flat \$150 fee beginning in January 2026 (dropping to \$100 in July of 2027).

- DVS will adopt a surcharge for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) that is the greater of either a calculation based on the vehicle's MSRP or a flat \$75 fee beginning in January 2026 (dropping to \$50 in July of 2027).
- Communications will go out to impacted drivers prior to Jan. 1, 2026, notifying them of the change to the surcharge.
- Revenues collected under these subdivisions will be deposited in the highway user tax distribution fund.

Temporary vehicle permit

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Sections 18 and 25

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes sections 168.091 and 168A.11, subdivision 1

Effective: Oct. 1, 2025

What you need to know

- The valid period on a temporary vehicle permit to a nonresident buyer for the sole purpose of removing a vehicle from Minnesota will be changed from 31 days to 60 days
- DVS will make necessary changes to MNDRIIVE
- Dealers, DRs, and other business owners will be updated prior to the effective date, including via a training session in September.

Rental motor vehicle plates

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 19

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 168.1289

Effective: The earlier of either July 1, 2026 or whenever the rental motor vehicle plates are made available

What you need to know

- Specific plates will be made available for rental motor vehicles.
- DVS will develop an application process by which auto rental companies can apply for rental plates.
- DVS will review all proper applications and issue rental plate to auto rental companies that:
 - Are a registered owner of a rental motor vehicle
 - Pay license plate fees under section 168.12, subdivision 5 for each of plates for each rental motor vehicles
 - Pays the registration tax for each rental motor vehicle as required under section 168.013
 - Pays the fees required in this chapter
 - Complies with section 168.017 and rules governing registration of rental motor vehicles
- Auto rental companies will need to renew rental motor vehicle plates every seven years. Plates issues for motorcycles or motorized bicycles are for the life of the vehicle.
- DVS will adopt a plate design that clearly includes the phrase "RENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE"
- DVS will develop a process allowing for the transfer of rental motor vehicle plates to another qualified vehicle within the same auto rental company for a \$5 fee. A deputy registrar who collects the fee must keep it.
- Auto rental companies must remove rental motor vehicle plates before they are sold.

Auto dealer independent contractors

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 20

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 168.27, subdivision 8

Effective: Jan. 1, 2026

What you need to know

- Independent contractors will no longer be considered dealership employees for the purposes of licensing.
- DVS will notify dealerships of the change and discuss the issue at future trainings.
- The dealer guide and other related forms will be updated to reflect this change.

Dealer background checks

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Section 21

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 168.27, subdivision 11

Effective: Jan. 1, 2026

What you need to know

- Auto dealers in Minnesota will undergo a more expansive background check process beginning in 2026.
- DVS will communicate updated requirements to applicants and confirm new documents are received with applications beginning Jan. 1, 2026.
- The dealer guide will be updated to reflect these changes, along with any other forms and documents.
- DVS staff will cover this change in future trainings.

Dealer plate provisions

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Sections 22-23

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes section 168.27, subdivisions 16 and 22

Effective: July 1, 2025

What you need to know

- Various provisions related to dealer plates for motor vehicles, trailers, and motorized bikes will be updated, including capping dealers at 50 total plates.
- DVS will update letters and other materials to reflect the change and send communications to dealerships explaining the changes.
- DVS will reach out directly to dealerships impacted by these changes to explain next steps.

Abandoned vehicle title applications for insurance and auction companies

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, [Chapter 8 - MN Laws](#), Article 2, Sections 26-27

Statutory Change: Minnesota Statutes sections 168A.1502 and 168A.1503

Effective: Sept. 1, 2025

What you need to know

- Beginning in September, insurance and auction companies will be allowed to apply for titles without having the current title and free of liens in the event a customer doesn't turn in the title or abandons the vehicle at an auction yard.
- DVS will update references on forms and the website as needed.
- This change will be covered in upcoming Time with Training sessions.
- DVS will develop new application forms for this process.