

Request for Comments

Department of Public Safety

Minnesota State Patrol

Possible Rules Relating to School-Bus Safety and Wheelchair Securement Devices; Revisor's ID Number R-04241

Subject of rules. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety requests comments on the department's possible rules on school-bus safety and wheelchair securement devices under Minnesota Rules, chapters 7470 and 7450, respectively.

The Minnesota State Patrol is responsible for regulating school buses used for transporting students when the bus is operated on a public street or highway. Within the State Patrol, the Office of Pupil Transportation Safety oversees all department activities for school-bus safety.

The rule chapter for school-bus safety hasn't been substantively amended since 1995, and much of the rule originally prescribed equipment and inspections standards, which have since been incorporated into statute.

The remaining rule provisions relate to school-bus operation and to driver-training requirements for transporting students with disabilities. In these provisions, the department has identified inconsistencies between existing rule and statute as well as the need to update the rule to reflect best practices in school-bus safety. Other changes will reformat the rule to better differentiate between training and operational requirements.

The State Patrol is also responsible for inspecting operators of transportation services to ensure that their wheelchair securement devices comply with Minnesota Statutes, sections 299A.11 to 299A.17—these statutory standards were updated in the 2019 legislative session. At that time, the legislature repealed the department's statutory authority for the corresponding rules. Accordingly, the department plans to repeal the entire rule chapter.

People affected. The rule amendments will likely affect the following people:

- 1) school-bus drivers and school-bus companies;
- 2) public and private schools, their students, and employees responsible for school-bus transportation and safety;
- 3) HeadStart schools and child-care providers that contract for school-bus transportation;
- 4) the Minnesota School Bus Operators Association;
- 5) the Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation;
- 6) the Minnesota Departments of Education and Transportation;
- 7) organizations or associations that represent or advocate for public and private schools or their employees;

- 8) organizations or associations that advocate for students with disabilities; and
- 9) operators—but excluding school buses—that transport a person in a wheelchair in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, sections 299A.11 to 299A.17.

Statutory authority. The department has the statutory authority to amend and adopt rules on school-bus safety under Minnesota Statutes, sections 168.102 and 169.449.

The department has the statutory authority to repeal rules on wheelchair securement devices under Minnesota Statutes, section 14.3895.

Public comment. Interested individuals or groups may email or mail comments or information on the possible rules until the department publishes a notice of intent to adopt the rules. The department will not publish a notice of intent to adopt the rules until more than 60 days have elapsed from this notice’s publication date.

Rules drafts. The department has not yet drafted the possible rules but anticipates that rule drafts will be available on its website (<https://dps.mn.gov/about-dps/programs-and-legislative-requirements/rulemaking#search=rulemaking>) when drafts become available.

Agency contact person. Written comments, questions, requests to receive rule drafts, and requests for more information on the possible rules should be directed to Ian Lewenstein, dps.rulemaking@state.mn.us, 651-201-7180, or the Department of Public Safety, 445 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

Alternative format. Upon request, the information in this notice can be made available in an alternative format such as large print, braille, or audio. To make a request, please contact Ian Lewenstein.

Note: If the department starts a proceeding to adopt rules, comments received in response to this notice will not necessarily be included in the formal rulemaking record submitted to the administrative law judge.

The department must submit to the administrative law judge only written comments received in response to the rules after they are formally proposed in a notice of intent to adopt rules published in the *State Register*. If you submit comments before the notice is published and you want to ensure that the administrative law judge reviews your comments, you should resubmit your comments after the rules are formally proposed.

January 20, 2026

Bob Jacobson, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety