

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1492

Introduced by

Representatives Gruchalla, L. Meier, Metcalf

Senators Horne, Mathern, Nelson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 39-06 and a new paragraph to
2 subdivision a of subsection 3 of section 39-06.1-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating
3 to restrictions on minors while driving; to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 39-06-03,
4 subdivision c of subsection 3 of section 39-06-14, sections 39-06-17 and 39-06-36,
5 subsection 3 of section 39-06-42, section 39-06-43, subsection 1 of section 39-06.1-08, and
6 subsection 3 of section 39-06.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to minors driving
7 motor vehicles; to repeal section 39-06-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to
8 instruction permits; to provide a penalty; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective
9 date.

10 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

11 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 39-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 created and enacted as follows:

13 **Instruction permits and intermediate driver's licenses.**

- 14 1. The director may issue an instruction permit to an individual under eighteen years
15 of age only if the individual:
- 16 a. Is fourteen years of age or older;
 - 17 b. Has successfully passed a standard written test prescribed by the director;
 - 18 c. Has successfully passed a vision examination;
 - 19 d. Has the written approval of the individual's parent or legal guardian; and
 - 20 e. Has not had a seatbelt law violation, traffic offense or violation, or any offense
21 involving the use of alcohol or other drug while operating a motor vehicle
22 during the one hundred eighty-day period immediately preceding application.
- 23 2. An individual with an instruction permit may not:

- 1 a. Operate a motor vehicle unless accompanied by an individual who is at least
2 twenty-one years of age and is licensed to operate a motor vehicle;
- 3 b. Operate a motor vehicle between the hours of eleven p.m. and five a.m.; nor
4 c. Manually operate an electronic device, which is not permanently affixed to the
5 motor vehicle unless the device is designed for use in the motor vehicle by
6 the manufacturer of the motor vehicle, while operating a motor vehicle that is
7 in motion unless the sole purpose of operating the device is to obtain
8 emergency assistance, to prevent a crime about to be committed, or in the
9 reasonable belief that an individual's life or safety is in danger.
- 10 3. The director may issue an intermediate operator's license to an individual under
11 eighteen years of age only if the individual:
- 12 a. Is fifteen years and six months of age or older;
13 b. Has successfully completed an examination of actual driving ability;
14 c. Had an instruction permit pursuant to subsection 1 or its equivalent from
15 another state for at least one year;
- 16 d. Has not had any seatbelt law violation, traffic violation or offense, or any
17 offense involving the use of alcohol or other drug while operating a motor
18 vehicle during the one hundred eighty-day period immediately preceding
19 application;
- 20 e. Submits an affidavit signed by that individual and by a parent or legal
21 guardian which states that the individual has accumulated a minimum of forty
22 hours of supervised, behind-the-wheel driving experience of which at least ten
23 hours must consist of night driving and of which at least four hours must
24 consist of driving on a gravel, dirt, or aggregate surface road; and
- 25 f. Has either completed a course of classroom instruction and a course of
26 behind-the-wheel instruction acceptable to the director or successfully
27 completed a course at an approved commercial driver training school.
- 28 4. An individual with an intermediate operator's license may not:
- 29 a. Operate a motor vehicle with more than one passenger under eighteen years
30 of age unless the additional passengers are siblings, including a step, half,

- 1 and adopted sibling, of the driver and the motor vehicle is being operated for
2 the sole purpose of going to or from school;
- 3 b. Operate a motor vehicle between the hours of eleven p.m. and five a.m.; nor
4 c. Manually operate an electronic device, which is not permanently affixed to the
5 motor vehicle unless the device is designed for use in the motor vehicle by
6 the manufacturer of the motor vehicle, while operating a motor vehicle that is
7 in motion unless the sole purpose of operating the device is to obtain
8 emergency assistance, to prevent a crime about to be committed, or in the
9 reasonable belief that a person's life or safety is in danger.
- 10 5. Except as otherwise provided by this section, the director may issue an
11 unrestricted operator's license to an individual under eighteen years of age only if
12 the individual:
- 13 a. Is at least sixteen years of age;
14 b. Has maintained an intermediate operator's license for at least six months; and
15 c. Has not had a seatbelt law violation, traffic violation or offense, or any offense
16 involving the use of alcohol or other drug while operating a motor vehicle
17 during the one hundred eighty-day period immediately preceding application.
- 18 6. Any individual who is between fourteen and sixteen years of age who resides on or
19 is employed for compensation on a farm in this state may apply to the director for a
20 farm license. A farm license entitles a licensee to operate a motor vehicle:
- 21 a. While going to, from, or in connection with any farm job or other farm-related
22 work; or
- 23 b. For other than farm-related purposes if the licensee is operating a motor
24 vehicle other than between the hours of eleven p.m. and five a.m. and is
25 accompanied by an individual who is at least twenty-one years of age who
26 holds a valid driver's license.
- 27 7. An individual with a farm license may not operate a wireless or cellular
28 communications device while driving unless the sole purpose of operating the
29 device is to obtain emergency assistance, to prevent a crime about to be
30 committed, in the reasonable belief that a person's life or safety is in danger, or to
31 communicate regarding any farm job, employment, or other farm-related work.

- 1 8. The director may issue a farm license to an applicant who has had an instruction
2 permit for two months and who:
- 3 a. Resides on a farm or is employed for compensation on a farm that requires
4 the operation of a motor vehicle by the applicant;
- 5 b. Has either completed a course of classroom instruction and a course of
6 behind-the-wheel instruction acceptable to the director or successfully
7 completed a course at an approved commercial driver training school;
- 8 c. Submits a signed affidavit from a parent or legal guardian that certifies that
9 the applicant lives or works on a farm;
- 10 d. Has not had a seatbelt law violation, traffic offenses or violations, or any
11 offense involving the use of alcohol or other drug while operating a motor
12 vehicle during the one hundred eighty-day period immediately preceding
13 application; and
- 14 e. Has successfully completed an examination of actual driving ability.
- 15 9. For purposes of this subsection, "farm" has the same meaning as in section
16 57-02-08. Any licensee issued a farm license under this section who is under
17 seventeen years of age and is convicted of two or more moving traffic violations
18 under section 39-06.1-09 committed on separate occasions is not eligible to
19 receive an unrestricted driver's license until the licensee reaches seventeen years
20 of age.
- 21 10. An individual who violates this section is not eligible to apply for an intermediate or
22 unrestricted operator's license for an additional ninety days from the time the
23 individual would otherwise be eligible to obtain an intermediate or unrestricted
24 license.
- 25 11. In addition to any points assigned for violation of the restrictions of the instruction
26 permit, farm license, or intermediate license, the individual will be subject to
27 cancellation of the permit or license according to section 39-06-01.1.

28 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 39-06-03 of the North Dakota
29 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 30 1. To any person who is under the age of sixteen years, except ~~that the director may~~
31 ~~issue a restricted permit or license as hereinafter provided in sections 39-06-05~~

1 ~~and 39-06-17 to any person who is less than sixteen years of age~~ section 1 of this
2 Act or as is provided for motorcycles.

3 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision c of subsection 3 of section 39-06-14 of the
4 North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

5 c. A driver with a class M license may operate any motor vehicle having a seat
6 or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than
7 three wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding motorized bicycles,
8 tractors, and vehicles on which the operator or passengers, or both, ride
9 within an enclosed cab. A class M vehicle may not be operated under a
10 class A, B, C, or D license.

11 (1) The holder of a class A, B, C, or D license may receive a class M
12 endorsement upon successful completion of an examination. The
13 director may waive the skill portion of the examination if the applicant
14 has successfully completed a motorcycle safety course approved by
15 the director.

16 (2) An applicant sixteen years of age and older, who does not hold a
17 current valid operator's license may be issued a class M learner's
18 permit after successful completion of a written examination. The
19 class M license will be issued after the applicant has successfully
20 completed a driver's examination. The director may waive the skill
21 portion of the examination if the applicant has successfully completed a
22 motorcycle safety course approved by the director.

23 (3) Applicants fourteen or fifteen years of age may be issued a motorcycle
24 learner's permit if the applicant is enrolled in or has completed an
25 approved motorcycle safety course. Applicants for a motorcycle
26 operator's license who are under sixteen years of age shall hold an
27 initial learner's permit for at least two months before applying for a
28 class M operator's license, shall have completed an approved
29 motorcycle safety course, and shall hold a valid motorcycle learner's
30 permit at the time of application. The director may waive the skill
31 portion of the examination if the applicant has successfully completed a

1 motorcycle safety course approved by the director. Any person under
2 sixteen years of age who holds a permit or license is restricted to the
3 operation of a motorcycle powered with an engine of two hundred fifty
4 cubic centimeters, or less, displacement. Evidence that the applicant
5 has satisfactorily completed a motorcycle safety course which meets
6 the minimum requirements of the motorcycle safety foundation must
7 accompany the application.

8 (4) A holder of a motorcycle learner's permit may not operate a motorcycle
9 when the use of headlights is required under section 39-21-01 and may
10 not carry or transport a passenger.

11 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-06-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **39-06-17. Restricted licenses - Penalty for violation.**

- 14 1. The director, upon issuing an operator's license or a temporary restricted
15 operator's license pursuant to section 39-06.1-11, has authority to impose
16 restrictions suitable to the licensee's driving ability with respect to the type of or
17 special mechanical control devices required on a motor vehicle which the licensee
18 may operate or such other restrictions applicable to the licensee as the director
19 may determine to be appropriate to assure the safe operation of a motor vehicle by
20 the licensee.
- 21 2. The director may either issue a special restricted license or may set forth such
22 restrictions upon the usual license form. The director shall likewise restrict
23 licenses pursuant to the requirements of section 39-16.1-09.
- 24 3. ~~A restricted operator's license or permit to operate the parent's or guardian's~~
25 ~~automobile, or an automobile which is equipped with dual controls and while~~
26 ~~accompanied by a qualified instructor, may be issued to any child, who is at least~~
27 ~~fourteen years of age, and otherwise qualified, upon the written recommendation~~
28 ~~of the parent or guardian. A child may operate an automobile that is not the~~
29 ~~parent's or guardian's to take the road test. No operator's license may be issued~~
30 ~~until the child, accompanied by the parent or guardian, appears in person and~~
31 ~~satisfies the director that:~~

- 1 a. ~~The child is at least fourteen years of age.~~
2 b. ~~The child is qualified to operate an automobile safely.~~
3 c. ~~It is necessary for the child to drive the parent's or guardian's automobile~~
4 ~~without being accompanied by an adult.~~
5 d. ~~The child has:~~
6 (1) ~~Completed a course of classroom instruction and a course of~~
7 ~~behind the wheel instruction acceptable to the director; or~~
8 (2) ~~Successfully completed a course at an approved commercial driver~~
9 ~~training school.~~

10 ~~The parent or guardian at all times is responsible for any and all damages growing~~
11 ~~out of the negligent operation of a motor vehicle by any such child. The provisions~~
12 ~~of this subsection do not authorize the child to drive a commercial truck, motorbus,~~
13 ~~or taxicab except the holder of a class D license, fourteen or fifteen years of age,~~
14 ~~may drive a farm motor vehicle having a gross weight of fifty thousand pounds~~
15 ~~[22679.62 kilograms] when used to transport agricultural products, farm~~
16 ~~machinery, or farm supplies to or from a farm when so operated within one~~
17 ~~hundred fifty miles [241.40 kilometers] of the driver's farm.~~

18 4. The director may upon receiving satisfactory evidence of any violation of the
19 restrictions of such license suspend or revoke the same but the licensee is entitled
20 to a hearing as upon a suspension or revocation under this chapter.

21 5. 4. It is a class B misdemeanor for any person to operate a motor vehicle in any
22 manner in violation of the restrictions imposed in a restricted license issued to that
23 person ~~other than restrictions imposed under subsection 6.~~ If the restricted license
24 was issued under section 39-06.1-11 and the underlying suspension was imposed
25 for a violation of section 39-08-01 or equivalent ordinance, or is governed by
26 chapter 39-20, punishment is as provided in subsection 2 of section 39-06-42 and
27 upon receiving notice of the conviction the director shall revoke, without
28 opportunity for hearing, the licensee's restricted license and shall extend the
29 underlying suspension for a like period of not more than one year. The director
30 may not issue a restricted license for the extended period of suspension imposed
31 under this subsection. If the conviction referred to in this section is reversed by an

1 appellate court, the director shall restore the person to the status held by the
2 person prior to the conviction, including restoration of driving privileges if
3 appropriate.

4 ~~6- A restricted license issued under subsection 3 to a child at least fourteen years of~~
5 ~~age to operate a parent's or guardian's automobile authorizes the licenseholder to~~
6 ~~drive the type or class of motor vehicle specified on the restricted license only~~
7 ~~under the following conditions:~~

8 ~~a- A restricted licenseholder must be in possession of the license while~~
9 ~~operating the motor vehicle.~~

10 ~~b- An individual holding a restricted driver's license driving a motor vehicle may~~
11 ~~not carry more passengers than the vehicle manufacturer's suggested~~
12 ~~passenger capacity.~~

13 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-06-36 of the North Dakota Century Code is
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 **39-06-36. Restoration of revoked licenses.** Any person whose license or privilege to
16 drive a motor vehicle on the public highways has been revoked is not entitled to have such
17 license or privilege renewed or restored unless the revocation was for a cause which has been
18 removed, except that after the expiration of the revocation period such person may make
19 application for a new license as provided by law, but the director may not then issue a new
20 license unless and until the director is satisfied after investigation of the individual's driving
21 records, driving habits, and driving ability of such person that it will be safe to grant the privilege
22 of driving a motor vehicle on the public highways. A person whose license or privilege to drive
23 a motor vehicle has been revoked must pay to the director a revocation reinstatement fee of
24 fifty dollars, or one hundred dollars if the revocation was imposed for violation of subsection ~~5~~ 4
25 of section 39-06-17, section 39-06-31, 39-06-43, or 39-20-04, in addition to any license renewal
26 fee, for issuance of a new license. Until the reinstatement fee is paid the license and privilege
27 to drive a motor vehicle remain under revocation. A reinstatement fee is not required if a
28 revoked license is reinstated due to the findings of a hearing, reexamination of hearing, or court
29 or judicial review as provided under chapter 39-06, 39-06.1, or 39-20.

30 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 39-06-42 of the North Dakota
31 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1 3. In addition to any other punishment imposed, the court may order the number
2 plates of the motor vehicle owned and operated by the offender at the time of the
3 offense to be impounded by the sheriff for the duration of the period of suspension
4 or revocation. When a period of suspension has been extended under
5 subsection ~~5~~ 4 of section 39-06-17, the court may order the number plates to be
6 impounded in accordance with this subsection. The impounded number plates
7 may be released, upon order of the court, to a bona fide purchaser of the
8 offender's motor vehicle, if that purchaser produces a new certificate of title to the
9 motor vehicle issued by the director.

10 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-06-43 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **39-06-43. Extension of license suspension or revocation.**

- 13 1. The director upon receiving a record of the conviction of any person upon a charge
14 of driving a vehicle while the license or driving privileges of the person were
15 suspended shall extend the period of that suspension for an additional:
- 16 ~~4.~~ a. Like period not to exceed ninety days if the operator's record for the three
17 years preceding the most recent violation of section 39-06-42 or equivalent
18 ordinance shows the person's operator's license or privilege has not been
19 suspended, revoked, or denied for a prior violation of section 39-06-42 or
20 equivalent ordinance;
- 21 ~~2.~~ b. One hundred eighty days if the operator's record for the three years preceding
22 the most recent violation of section 39-06-42 or equivalent ordinance shows
23 the person's operator's license or privilege has been once suspended,
24 revoked, or denied for a prior violation of section 39-06-42 or equivalent
25 ordinance; or
- 26 ~~3.~~ c. One year if the operator's record for the three-year period preceding the most
27 recent violation of section 39-06-42 or equivalent ordinance shows the
28 person's operator's license or privilege has been at least twice suspended,
29 revoked, or denied for a prior violation of section 39-06-42 or equivalent
30 ordinance.

1 3. The director may not issue a temporary restricted license for a period of license
2 revocation or suspension imposed under subsection ~~5~~ 4 of section 39-06-17 or
3 section 39-06-31. A temporary restricted license may be issued for suspensions
4 ordered under subsection 7 of section 39-06-32 if it could have been issued had
5 the suspension resulted from in-state conduct.

6 **SECTION 11. REPEAL.** Section 39-06-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 repealed.

8 **SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the
9 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$359,640, or so much
10 of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of transportation for the purpose of
11 implementing the provisions of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending
12 June 30, 2011.

13 **SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act is effective for permits and driver's licenses
14 issued on or after January 1, 2010. This Act does not affect a valid permit or driver's license
15 issued before the effective date of this Act.