

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by
5 changing Section 6-106.1 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/6-106.1) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 6-106.1)

7 Sec. 6-106.1. School bus driver permit.

8 (a) The Secretary of State shall issue a school bus driver
9 permit to those applicants who have met all the requirements
10 of the application and screening process under this Section to
11 insure the welfare and safety of children who are transported
12 on school buses throughout the State of Illinois. Applicants
13 shall obtain the proper application required by the Secretary
14 of State from their prospective or current employer and submit
15 the completed application to the prospective or current
16 employer along with the necessary fingerprint submission as
17 required by the Illinois State Police to conduct fingerprint
18 based criminal background checks on current and future
19 information available in the state system and current
20 information available through the Federal Bureau of
21 Investigation's system. Applicants who have completed the
22 fingerprinting requirements shall not be subjected to the
23 fingerprinting process when applying for subsequent permits or

1 submitting proof of successful completion of the annual
2 refresher course. Individuals who on July 1, 1995 (the
3 effective date of Public Act 88-612) possess a valid school
4 bus driver permit that has been previously issued by the
5 appropriate Regional School Superintendent are not subject to
6 the fingerprinting provisions of this Section as long as the
7 permit remains valid and does not lapse. The applicant shall
8 be required to pay all related application and fingerprinting
9 fees as established by rule including, but not limited to, the
10 amounts established by the Illinois State Police and the
11 Federal Bureau of Investigation to process fingerprint based
12 criminal background investigations. All fees paid for
13 fingerprint processing services under this Section shall be
14 deposited into the State Police Services Fund for the cost
15 incurred in processing the fingerprint based criminal
16 background investigations. All other fees paid under this
17 Section shall be deposited into the Road Fund for the purpose
18 of defraying the costs of the Secretary of State in
19 administering this Section. All applicants must:

- 20 1. be 21 years of age or older;
- 21 2. possess a valid and properly classified driver's
22 license issued by the Secretary of State;
- 23 3. possess a valid driver's license, which has not
24 been revoked, suspended, or canceled for 3 years
25 immediately prior to the date of application, or have not
26 had his or her commercial motor vehicle driving privileges

1 disqualified within the 3 years immediately prior to the
2 date of application;

3 4. successfully pass a written test, administered by
4 the Secretary of State, on school bus operation, school
5 bus safety, and special traffic laws relating to school
6 buses and submit to a review of the applicant's driving
7 habits by the Secretary of State at the time the written
8 test is given;

9 5. demonstrate ability to exercise reasonable care in
10 the operation of school buses in accordance with rules
11 promulgated by the Secretary of State;

12 6. demonstrate physical fitness to operate school
13 buses by submitting the results of a medical examination,
14 including tests for drug use for each applicant not
15 subject to such testing pursuant to federal law, conducted
16 by a licensed physician, a licensed advanced practice
17 registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant within
18 90 days of the date of application according to standards
19 promulgated by the Secretary of State;

20 7. affirm under penalties of perjury that he or she
21 has not made a false statement or knowingly concealed a
22 material fact in any application for permit;

23 8. have completed an initial classroom course,
24 including first aid procedures, in school bus driver
25 safety as promulgated by the Secretary of State; and after
26 satisfactory completion of said initial course an annual

1 refresher course; such courses and the agency or
2 organization conducting such courses shall be approved by
3 the Secretary of State; failure to complete the annual
4 refresher course, shall result in cancellation of the
5 permit until such course is completed;

6 9. not have been under an order of court supervision
7 for or convicted of 2 or more serious traffic offenses, as
8 defined by rule, within one year prior to the date of
9 application that may endanger the life or safety of any of
10 the driver's passengers within the duration of the permit
11 period;

12 10. not have been under an order of court supervision
13 for or convicted of reckless driving, aggravated reckless
14 driving, driving while under the influence of alcohol,
15 other drug or drugs, intoxicating compound or compounds or
16 any combination thereof, or reckless homicide resulting
17 from the operation of a motor vehicle within 3 years of the
18 date of application;

19 11. not have been convicted of committing or
20 attempting to commit any one or more of the following
21 offenses: (i) those offenses defined in Sections 8-1,
22 8-1.2, 9-1, 9-1.2, 9-2, 9-2.1, 9-3, 9-3.2, 9-3.3, 10-1,
23 10-2, 10-3.1, 10-4, 10-5, 10-5.1, 10-6, 10-7, 10-9,
24 11-1.20, 11-1.30, 11-1.40, 11-1.50, 11-1.60, 11-6, 11-6.5,
25 11-6.6, 11-9, 11-9.1, 11-9.1A, 11-9.3, 11-9.4, 11-9.4-1,
26 11-14, 11-14.1, 11-14.3, 11-14.4, 11-15, 11-15.1, 11-16,

1 11-17, 11-17.1, 11-18, 11-18.1, 11-19, 11-19.1, 11-19.2,
2 11-20, 11-20.1, 11-20.1B, 11-20.3, 11-21, 11-22, 11-23,
3 11-24, 11-25, 11-26, 11-30, 12-2.6, 12-3.05, 12-3.1,
4 12-3.3, 12-4, 12-4.1, 12-4.2, 12-4.2-5, 12-4.3, 12-4.4,
5 12-4.5, 12-4.6, 12-4.7, 12-4.9, 12-5.3, 12-6, 12-6.2,
6 12-7.1, 12-7.3, 12-7.4, 12-7.5, 12-11, 12-13, 12-14,
7 12-14.1, 12-15, 12-16, 12-21.5, 12-21.6, 12-33, 12C-5,
8 12C-10, 12C-20, 12C-30, 12C-45, 16-16, 16-16.1, 18-1,
9 18-2, 18-3, 18-4, 18-5, 19-6, 20-1, 20-1.1, 20-1.2,
10 20-1.3, 20-2, 24-1, 24-1.1, 24-1.2, 24-1.2-5, 24-1.6,
11 24-1.7, 24-2.1, 24-3.3, 24-3.5, 24-3.8, 24-3.9, 31A-1.1,
12 33A-2, and 33D-1, in subsection (A), clauses (a) and (b),
13 of Section 24-3, and those offenses contained in Article
14 29D of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of
15 2012; (ii) those offenses defined in the Cannabis Control
16 Act except those offenses defined in subsections (a) and
17 (b) of Section 4, and subsection (a) of Section 5 of the
18 Cannabis Control Act; (iii) those offenses defined in the
19 Illinois Controlled Substances Act; (iv) those offenses
20 defined in the Methamphetamine Control and Community
21 Protection Act; ~~and~~ (v) any offense committed or attempted
22 in any other state or against the laws of the United
23 States, which if committed or attempted in this State
24 would be punishable as one or more of the foregoing
25 offenses; (vi) the offenses defined in Section 4.1 and 5.1
26 of the Wrongs to Children Act or Section 11-9.1A of the

1 Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012; (vii)
2 those offenses defined in Section 6-16 of the Liquor
3 Control Act of 1934; and (viii) those offenses defined in
4 the Methamphetamine Precursor Control Act;

5 12. not have been repeatedly involved as a driver in
6 motor vehicle collisions or been repeatedly convicted of
7 offenses against laws and ordinances regulating the
8 movement of traffic, to a degree which indicates lack of
9 ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable care in the
10 safe operation of a motor vehicle or disrespect for the
11 traffic laws and the safety of other persons upon the
12 highway;

13 13. not have, through the unlawful operation of a
14 motor vehicle, caused an accident resulting in the death
15 of any person;

16 14. not have, within the last 5 years, been adjudged
17 to be afflicted with or suffering from any mental
18 disability or disease;

19 15. consent, in writing, to the release of results of
20 reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing under
21 Section 6-106.1c of this Code by the employer of the
22 applicant to the Secretary of State; and

23 16. not have been convicted of committing or
24 attempting to commit within the last 20 years: (i) an
25 offense defined in subsection (c) of Section 4, subsection
26 (b) of Section 5, and subsection (a) of Section 8 of the

1 Cannabis Control Act; or (ii) any offenses in any other
2 state or against the laws of the United States that, if
3 committed or attempted in this State, would be punishable
4 as one or more of the foregoing offenses.

5 (a-5) If an applicant's driver's license has been
6 suspended within the 3 years immediately prior to the date of
7 application for the sole reason of failure to pay child
8 support, that suspension shall not bar the applicant from
9 receiving a school bus driver permit.

10 (b) A school bus driver permit shall be valid for a period
11 specified by the Secretary of State as set forth by rule. It
12 shall be renewable upon compliance with subsection (a) of this
13 Section.

14 (c) A school bus driver permit shall contain the holder's
15 driver's license number, legal name, residence address, zip
16 code, and date of birth, a brief description of the holder and
17 a space for signature. The Secretary of State may require a
18 suitable photograph of the holder.

19 (d) The employer shall be responsible for conducting a
20 pre-employment interview with prospective school bus driver
21 candidates, distributing school bus driver applications and
22 medical forms to be completed by the applicant, and submitting
23 the applicant's fingerprint cards to the Illinois State Police
24 that are required for the criminal background investigations.
25 The employer shall certify in writing to the Secretary of
26 State that all pre-employment conditions have been

1 successfully completed including the successful completion of
2 an Illinois specific criminal background investigation through
3 the Illinois State Police and the submission of necessary
4 fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for
5 criminal history information available through the Federal
6 Bureau of Investigation system. The applicant shall present
7 the certification to the Secretary of State at the time of
8 submitting the school bus driver permit application.

9 (e) Permits shall initially be provisional upon receiving
10 certification from the employer that all pre-employment
11 conditions have been successfully completed, and upon
12 successful completion of all training and examination
13 requirements for the classification of the vehicle to be
14 operated, the Secretary of State shall provisionally issue a
15 School Bus Driver Permit. The permit shall remain in a
16 provisional status pending the completion of the Federal
17 Bureau of Investigation's criminal background investigation
18 based upon fingerprinting specimens submitted to the Federal
19 Bureau of Investigation by the Illinois State Police. The
20 Federal Bureau of Investigation shall report the findings
21 directly to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State
22 shall remove the bus driver permit from provisional status
23 upon the applicant's successful completion of the Federal
24 Bureau of Investigation's criminal background investigation.

25 (f) A school bus driver permit holder shall notify the
26 employer and the Secretary of State if he or she is issued an

1 order of court supervision for or convicted in another state
2 of an offense that would make him or her ineligible for a
3 permit under subsection (a) of this Section. The written
4 notification shall be made within 5 days of the entry of the
5 order of court supervision or conviction. Failure of the
6 permit holder to provide the notification is punishable as a
7 petty offense for a first violation and a Class B misdemeanor
8 for a second or subsequent violation.

9 (g) Cancellation; suspension; notice and procedure.

10 (1) The Secretary of State shall cancel a school bus
11 driver permit of an applicant whose criminal background
12 investigation discloses that he or she is not in
13 compliance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this
14 Section.

15 (2) The Secretary of State shall cancel a school bus
16 driver permit when he or she receives notice that the
17 permit holder fails to comply with any provision of this
18 Section or any rule promulgated for the administration of
19 this Section.

20 (3) The Secretary of State shall cancel a school bus
21 driver permit if the permit holder's restricted commercial
22 or commercial driving privileges are withdrawn or
23 otherwise invalidated.

24 (4) The Secretary of State may not issue a school bus
25 driver permit for a period of 3 years to an applicant who
26 fails to obtain a negative result on a drug test as

1 required in item 6 of subsection (a) of this Section or
2 under federal law.

3 (5) The Secretary of State shall forthwith suspend a
4 school bus driver permit for a period of 3 years upon
5 receiving notice that the holder has failed to obtain a
6 negative result on a drug test as required in item 6 of
7 subsection (a) of this Section or under federal law.

8 (6) The Secretary of State shall suspend a school bus
9 driver permit for a period of 3 years upon receiving
10 notice from the employer that the holder failed to perform
11 the inspection procedure set forth in subsection (a) or
12 (b) of Section 12-816 of this Code.

13 (7) The Secretary of State shall suspend a school bus
14 driver permit for a period of 3 years upon receiving
15 notice from the employer that the holder refused to submit
16 to an alcohol or drug test as required by Section 6-106.1c
17 or has submitted to a test required by that Section which
18 disclosed an alcohol concentration of more than 0.00 or
19 disclosed a positive result on a National Institute on
20 Drug Abuse five-drug panel, utilizing federal standards
21 set forth in 49 CFR 40.87.

22 The Secretary of State shall notify the State
23 Superintendent of Education and the permit holder's
24 prospective or current employer that the applicant has (1) has
25 failed a criminal background investigation or (2) is no longer
26 eligible for a school bus driver permit; and of the related

1 cancellation of the applicant's provisional school bus driver
2 permit. The cancellation shall remain in effect pending the
3 outcome of a hearing pursuant to Section 2-118 of this Code.
4 The scope of the hearing shall be limited to the issuance
5 criteria contained in subsection (a) of this Section. A
6 petition requesting a hearing shall be submitted to the
7 Secretary of State and shall contain the reason the individual
8 feels he or she is entitled to a school bus driver permit. The
9 permit holder's employer shall notify in writing to the
10 Secretary of State that the employer has certified the removal
11 of the offending school bus driver from service prior to the
12 start of that school bus driver's next workshift. An employing
13 school board that fails to remove the offending school bus
14 driver from service is subject to the penalties defined in
15 Section 3-14.23 of the School Code. A school bus contractor
16 who violates a provision of this Section is subject to the
17 penalties defined in Section 6-106.11.

18 All valid school bus driver permits issued under this
19 Section prior to January 1, 1995, shall remain effective until
20 their expiration date unless otherwise invalidated.

21 (h) When a school bus driver permit holder who is a service
22 member is called to active duty, the employer of the permit
23 holder shall notify the Secretary of State, within 30 days of
24 notification from the permit holder, that the permit holder
25 has been called to active duty. Upon notification pursuant to
26 this subsection, (i) the Secretary of State shall characterize

1 the permit as inactive until a permit holder renews the permit
2 as provided in subsection (i) of this Section, and (ii) if a
3 permit holder fails to comply with the requirements of this
4 Section while called to active duty, the Secretary of State
5 shall not characterize the permit as invalid.

6 (i) A school bus driver permit holder who is a service
7 member returning from active duty must, within 90 days, renew
8 a permit characterized as inactive pursuant to subsection (h)
9 of this Section by complying with the renewal requirements of
10 subsection (b) of this Section.

11 (j) For purposes of subsections (h) and (i) of this
12 Section:

13 "Active duty" means active duty pursuant to an executive
14 order of the President of the United States, an act of the
15 Congress of the United States, or an order of the Governor.

16 "Service member" means a member of the Armed Services or
17 reserve forces of the United States or a member of the Illinois
18 National Guard.

19 (k) A private carrier employer of a school bus driver
20 permit holder, having satisfied the employer requirements of
21 this Section, shall be held to a standard of ordinary care for
22 intentional acts committed in the course of employment by the
23 bus driver permit holder. This subsection (k) shall in no way
24 limit the liability of the private carrier employer for
25 violation of any provision of this Section or for the
26 negligent hiring or retention of a school bus driver permit

1 holder.

2 (Source: P.A. 101-458, eff. 1-1-20; 102-168, eff. 7-27-21;

3 102-299, eff. 8-6-21; 102-538, eff. 8-20-21; revised

4 10-13-21.)