
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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April 3, 2024

2023 Wisconsin Act 160 [2023 Senate Bill 591]

Driver Education Related to Work Zone Safety

Under Wisconsin law, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) approves driver education courses offered by school districts and various other entities, and establishes minimum standards for driver education courses offered in private schools and tribal schools. The Technical College System Board (TCSB) approves courses, including driver education courses, for each technical college district school. And the Department of Transportation (DOT) licenses private driver schools. Wisconsin law requires that driver education courses approved by DPI and TCSB include instruction on a variety of different topics, and prohibits DOT from licensing a school unless its approved course of curriculum includes the topics that must be included in a TCSB-approved course.

2023 Wisconsin Act 160 expands the list of topics all approved driver education courses must include. Under the act, a driver education course approved by DPI or TCSB must acquaint each student with the hazards posed by highway work zones and provide at least 30 minutes of instruction in safely dealing with these hazards. Similarly, the act provides that DOT may not license a private driver school unless its approved course of curriculum also includes this component.

The act further requires DOT to determine the materials to be used in the work zone safety instruction course approved by DPI, TCSB, or in a driver school licensed by DOT. The requirement that an approved driver education course acquaint each student with the hazards posed by highway work zones and provide at least 30 minutes of instruction in safely dealing with these hazards initially applies to courses that begin on March 23, 2024.

Effective date: March 23, 2024

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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