

Champion's drivers license bill supports immigrants

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On Monday March 18th, the Senate Transportation committee passed S.F. 271. The bill, authored by Senator Bobby Joe Champion (DFL – Minneapolis), changes the documents required to receive a Minnesota Drivers License. It allows applicants to use official government identification cards from other countries that show a photo of the cardholder, unique identification number and security measures making it difficult to alter the ID to prove their identity.

"This is a matter of public safety. Right now, many members of the immigrant community drive without a Minnesota license and insurance. This bill increases the number of licensed drivers and insured drivers on Minnesota's roads," said Senator Champion. "Furthermore, this process would also ensure drivers are aware of Minnesota traffic laws and have passed both driving and written tests."

In order to receive a license, people will still need to show proof of insurance and take and pass a behind the wheel test, take and pass a written test, complete an application and go through the regular process and pay the fee.

"Providing a way for immigrants to receive a driver license will help with travel to and from work, or to and from school. It also helps immigrants integrate with the community and strengthen the family."