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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 3499

02/12/2024 Authored by Brand; Hansen, R.; Frederick and Elkins
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to railroads; establishing a maximum train length; providing for penalties;
1.3 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 219.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. 219.5505 TRAIN LENGTH.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Definition. For purposes of this section, "railroad" means a common
1.7 carrier that is classified by federal law or regulation as a Class I railroad, Class I rail carrier,
1.8 Class II railroad, Class II rail carrier, Class III railroad, or Class III rail carrier.

1.9 Subd. 2. Maximum length. A railroad must not operate a train in this state that has a
1.10 total length in excess of 8,500 feet.

1.11 Subd. 3. Penalty. (a) A railroad that violates this section is subject to a penalty of:

1.12 (1) not less than \$1,000 or more than \$5,000 for a first offense;

1.13 (2) not less than \$5,000 or more than \$10,000 for a second offense committed within
1.14 three years of the first offense; and

1.15 (3) not less than \$25,000 for a third or subsequent offense committed within three years
1.16 of the first offense.

1.17 (b) The commissioner of transportation may enforce this section in a civil action before
1.18 a judge of a county in which the violation occurs.

1.19 (c) Fines collected under this section must be deposited in the state rail safety inspection
1.20 account in the special revenue fund.

- 2.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2024, and applies to violations
- 2.2 committed on or after that date.