

Subject Transportation-related COVID-19 response

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Overview

This bill, as proposed to be amended by the H1447DE6 delete-everything amendment, would address various transportation-related topics that are related to the COVID-19 disease. Provisions include extending out-of-state commercial driver's licenses, extending some vehicle registrations, providing for issuing commercial driver's licenses, requiring agency reports to the legislature, and specifying allowable uses of federal aid. The provisions are effective the day after enactment.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Out-of-state licenses.
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Broadens an out-of-state driver's license extension provision recently enacted in Laws 2020, chapter 71, to include commercial driver's license (CDL) holders who become Minnesota residents. Under the change:

- a CDL holder can continue to use a license from another jurisdiction beyond the usual 30-day grace period; and
- the out-of-state license expiration date is extended in conformance with a federal extension (so that a CDL that would otherwise expire during the peacetime emergency, or at any point during the last month in which the peacetime emergency is in place, is extended to the end of the second month following the month in which the peacetime emergency terminates, but no later than as provided by the federal extension).

2	Medical certificates and waivers.
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Creates an extension for medical examiner's certificates and waivers (which are required to be maintained by CDL holders) in the same manner as driver's license extensions enacted in Laws 2020, chapter 71, but in conformance with a federal extension (as described in section 1).

Section	Description
3	<p>Commercial driver's license.</p> <p>Authorizes the Department of Public Safety to issue commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) without immediately administering an eye exam or obtaining an in-person photograph, for (1) seasonal CDLs, as well as (2) other applicants if the department has instituted road exams in a manner that complies with state and federal recommendations related to personal protections with the COVID-19 disease.</p> <p>A CDL issued under this provision expires at the end of the second month following the month in which the peacetime emergency terminates, unless the license holder gets an updated photo taken and passes an eye exam. Prevents imposition of any additional fees or surcharges (beyond what is charged under typical circumstances).</p>
4	<p>Vehicle registration; extension.</p> <p>Extends the registration period for vehicles whose registration cannot be renewed online (i.e., commercial and other non-passenger type vehicles) that would otherwise need to be renewed during the peacetime emergency or at any point during the last month in which the peacetime emergency is in place. The extension is to the end of the second month following the month in which the peacetime emergency terminates. Establishes that once renewed, the registration period for the vehicle is unchanged. Prevents imposition of a tax, fee, or surcharge for the extension.</p>
5	<p>Vehicle registration; unregistered vehicles.</p> <p>Treats farm trucks and other vehicles registered on quarterly basis as being considered registered when the vehicle's most recent registration was for a quarter prior to the March 1 to May 31 period. The treatment as registered applies during the peacetime emergency and until the end of the second month following the month in which the peacetime emergency terminates. Requires after-the-fact registration for each applicable quarter during which the vehicle was operated on public roads. Prevents imposition of any additional taxes, fees, or surcharges (beyond what is charged under typical circumstances).</p>
6	<p>Report to legislature; powers exercised by commissioner of transportation during peacetime public health emergency.</p> <p>Requires a legislative report from the Department of Transportation about use of any temporary powers during the peacetime public health emergency. The report is due within 30 days of expiration of the emergency.</p>
7	<p>Report to legislature; powers exercised by Metropolitan Council during peacetime public health emergency.</p> <p>Requires a legislative report from the Metropolitan Council about use of any temporary powers during the peacetime public health emergency. The report is due within 30 days of expiration of the emergency.</p>

Section	Description
8	<p>Extending the deadline for the transit finance report.</p> <p>Delays the next due date for a biennial transit finance report produced by the Metropolitan Council, to be February 15, 2021, instead of October 15, 2020.</p>
9	<p>Use of federal transit funds.</p> <p>Identifies allowable uses of federal COVID-19 response aid provided to the Metropolitan Council and to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for distribution to transit providers (without restricting other uses). Requires legislative reporting from each agency regarding uses of the federal funds, which is due by February 15, 2021.</p>



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