

Subject Road construction small business impacts assistance

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Overview

This bill establishes a program that provides financial assistance to some small businesses and nonprofits organizations impacted by longer-term road construction projects. It also revises communication requirements in conjunction with road and rail transit construction.

Summary

| Section | Description |
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| 1 | <p>Mitigating transportation project impact on business.</p> <p>Requires transportation authorities (including the Minnesota Department of Transportation [MnDOT], counties, cities, and the Metropolitan Council) to implement communications planning around transportation projects that involve business impairment. Specifies elements to include in the communications plan.</p> |
| 2 | <p>[Adds § 160.167] Local business construction impacts assistance program.</p> <p>Establishes a Local Business Construction Impacts Assistance program to provide financial assistance to businesses and nonprofit organizations impaired by some road construction projects.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Program established. Directs MnDOT to create the assistance program.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Administration. Directs the department to set program requirements, including application and assistance distribution procedures.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Eligibility. Specifies eligibility criteria for a business entity or nonprofit organization to receive aid under the program, which includes a maximum of two retail locations, a minimum 80 percent of gross revenue from sales or services at retail, and headquarters in Minnesota.</p> |

| Section | Description |
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| | <p>Subd. 5. Financial assistance; program allocation. Requires MnDOT, counties, and cities to set aside an allocation for the program using project funds. For applicable projects, the required allocation is:</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ one percent of the total project cost estimate; and▪ an additional one percent as a contingent allocation. |
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| | <p>An allocation is required for each project where there are business impacts that meet an impairment threshold, which includes access or visibility impairment for at least 60 days.</p> |
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| | <p>Subd. 6. Financial assistance; distribution and payment. Provides for distribution of financial assistance and payment to eligible recipients. Requires awards in equal shares to all eligible recipients, which cannot exceed \$30,000 per recipient.</p> |
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| | <p>Subd. 7. Financial assistance; supplemental distribution. Requires supplemental financial assistance if business impacts continue for at least 60 days beyond the originally identified conclusion of impairment.</p> |
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| | <p>Subd. 8. Application. Makes the program start with projects that commence construction on or after October 1, 2026.</p> |
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