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State of Minnesota HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. **367**

02/13/2025 Authored by Murphy, Gander and Allen
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy
02/19/2025 By motion, recalled and re-referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to public safety; authorizing an action for damages for highway obstruction;
- 1.3 imposing civil penalties; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,
- 1.4 chapter 169.
- 1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6 Section 1. **[169.907] HIGHWAY OBSTRUCTION; CIVIL LIABILITY.**
- 1.7 Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, "person" includes an individual,
- 1.8 private entity, state agency, or political subdivision.
- 1.9 Subd. 2. **Civil liability imposed.** Whoever by an act or omission intentionally interferes
- 1.10 with, obstructs, or renders dangerous for passage any public highway is liable to an injured
- 1.11 person for damages arising from the injuries and reasonable attorney fees and costs.
- 1.12 Subd. 3. **Relationship to criminal law; election of remedy.** If an act is a violation of
- 1.13 this section and section 609.74, clause (2), a state agency or political subdivision may elect
- 1.14 its remedy by commencing either an action under this section or criminal prosecution under
- 1.15 section 609.74, clause (2). A state agency or political subdivision may bring only one type
- 1.16 of action under this subdivision and is precluded from bringing the other type of action for
- 1.17 the same conduct.
- 1.18 Subd. 4. **Exemption.** When carrying out duties imposed by law or contract, this section
- 1.19 does not apply to the actions of law enforcement or other emergency responders, road or
- 1.20 airport authorities, or utility officials or their agents, employees, or contractors.
- 1.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2025, and applies to causes
- 1.22 of action accruing on or after that date.