

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 245

SESSION: 2004 Regular Session

TOPIC: Transit fare evasion; stopping at light rail crossings

Date: May 18, 2004

Analyst: John Williams, 651-296-5045

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Section

- 1 **Stopping at light rail crossings.** Provides that laws requiring certain vehicles (passenger buses, school buses, vehicles required under federal regulations to stop at railroad crossings) to stop at railroad crossings do not apply to light rail transit crossings if:
 - the crossing is within the intersection of two or more public streets,
 - the intersection is controlled by a traffic signal, and
 - the intersection is marked with signs indicating to drivers that the mandatory-stop requirements do not apply. Allows the owner or operator of the tracks to place the signs on streets.
- 2 **Warning signals.** Allows a city or town to adopt ordinances regulating light rail horns, whistles, and other audible warnings within its jurisdiction. Requires regulations and ordinances to conform to federal law.
- 3 **Unlawfully obtaining service.** Designates as “unlawfully obtaining service” from public transit the following, whether on behalf of the violator or another person:
 - using a reduced fare when not eligible for such a fare
 - use by one person of “fare media” (tickets, smart cards, passes, coupons, tokens, transfers, or other ticket media) issued to another person
 - presenting false, counterfeit, copied, or other deceptively manipulated fare media without the transit provider’s consent
 - putting items other than fare media, or invalid fare media, into a farebox, pass reader, ticket vending machine, or other fare collection equipment

Section

Prohibits, in situations where a public transit provider uses a self-service barrier-free fare collection system, intentional failure to show proof of fare on request of an authorized transit representative when entering, getting off, or riding in a transit vehicle, or when in an area designated as a paid-fare zone in a transit facility.

- 4** **Definitions.** Defines “proof of fare payment” as fare media valid for the purpose for which it is being used. Includes in this definition proof of eligibility for reduced fare, and proof of identity as the person to whom the fare media was issued. Defines “fare medium” as a ticket, smart card, pass, coupon, token, transfer, or other medium sold by a public transit provider for use in gaining entry to public transit facilities or vehicles.