

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 300 (H.F. 2881)

**SESSION:** 2014 Regular Session

**TOPIC:** Motor carriers of railroad employees

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## Overview

This act modifies regulations governing motor carriers of railroad employees. It goes into effect August 1, 2014.

### Section

- 1 **Inspection required.** Makes vehicles operated by a motor carrier of railroad employees subject to annual inspection within a commercial vehicle inspection provision.
- 2 **Motor carrier of railroad employees.** Modifies regulations governing motor carriers of railroad employees. Makes technical changes.

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Clarifies the definition of “on-duty time,” which has the effect of amending the hours of service requirements for drivers. Makes a technical change to move definitions to a new subdivision (moved from the end of this section of statutes).

**Subd. 2. Application.** Extends the regulations for motor carriers of railroad employees to contracted carriers.

**Subd. 3. Vehicle operator requirements.** Paragraph (a) specifies that physical examinations must meet the same requirements that are in place for commercial motor vehicle operators, and requires pre-trip and post-trip inspections

Paragraph (b) bans both hands free and handheld cell phone use when operating the vehicle.

**Subd. 4. Motor carriers of railroad employees; requirements.** Expands carrier requirements, including performance of criminal background checks and maintaining a

## **Section**

driver file that includes specified documentation.

**Subd. 5. Vehicle; equipment.** Establishes various vehicle equipment and condition requirements, including properly functioning seatbelts, a global positioning device, an emergency kit, and identification on the side of the vehicle meeting specified standards. Limits vehicle capacity to up to ten people including the driver. Prohibits transportation in a vehicle where the requirements are not met.

**Subd. 6. Driver disqualification; reporting.** Makes technical changes.

**Subd. 7. Testing.** Makes technical changes.

**Subd. 8. Hours of service.** Makes technical changes.

**Subd. 9. Inspection authority.** Authorizes the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the State Patrol to perform random inspections and safety reviews.