

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 688

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Version: As introduced

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Subject: Abolishing regional rail authorities in the metropolitan area

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Overview

H.F. 688 abolishes regional rail authorities in the seven-county metropolitan area, effective July 1, 2003.

Section

- 1 **Metropolitan governmental unit.** Eliminates regional railroad authorities from the definition of metropolitan governmental units for the purposes of the campaign finance and public disclosure law.
- 2 **Economic analysis of nonhighway alternatives.** Eliminates the stipulation that the commissioner of transportation is to cooperate with the regional rail authorities in developing nonhighway transit plans for the metropolitan area.
- 3 **Notice of proposed property taxes.** Eliminates regional rail authorities from the "truth-in-taxation" proposed notice.
- 4 **Organization of regional railroad authorities.** Limits authority to establish regional railroad authorities to counties outside the seven-county metropolitan area.
- 5 **Metropolitan regional rail authorities abolished.**

Subd. 1. Abolishment. Abolishes existing regional rail authorities in the metropolitan area. Transfers property of an abolished authority to the county that created the authority.

Subd. 2. Bonds. Provides that bonds issued by the abolished rail authorities must be paid and retired under the terms of the bonds. Requires the auditors of the seven

Section

metropolitan counties to administer the bond payments.

- 6 **Light rail transit plans.** Strikes language relating to regional rail authorities from the light rail transit planning statute.
- 7 **Light rail transit plans.** Strikes language relating to regional rail authorities from the public hearing section of the light rail transit planning statute.
- 8 **Federal funding; light rail transit.** Eliminates regional rail authorities from participating in applying for federal funds for light rail transit.
- 9 **Applicability.** Provides that the bill is effective in the seven-county metropolitan area.
- 10 **Effective date.** Provides that the bill is effective July 1, 2003.