

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill would provide the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) with towing authority, subject to certain requirements and limitations. It also changes motor carrier safety regulations, including updating definitions, changing commercial vehicle identification requirements, establishing safety permits for transporting hazardous materials, and replacing the current interstate motor carrier regulation with the Unified Carrier Registration Agreement system.

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- 1 Unauthorized vehicles.** Allows immediate impounding of vehicles located within the Department of Transportation's eight-county metropolitan district that constitute an accident or traffic hazard, as determined by an authorized employee of the Department of Transportation (MnDOT). Requires that the initially requested tower, or a tower contacted by the vehicle owner, be given an opportunity to conduct the towing.
- 2 Explosives.** Amends the definition of explosives to have the meaning given under federal regulations.
- 3 Flammable liquid.** Amends the definition of flammable liquid to have the meaning given under federal regulations.
- 4 Towing authority.** Establishes as a towing authority an authorized MnDOT employee within the department's eight-county metropolitan district, as well as a private towing company authorized by the department.
- 5 Towing order required.** Allows an authorized MnDOT employee, within the department's eight-county metropolitan district, to order a tow from a trunk highway after preparing a

Section

towing report. The authorized employee is not required to issue a citation. Under current law, a towing authority may not tow a motor vehicle unless a peace officer or parking enforcement officer has prepared a parking citation and a towing report.

6 Vehicle identification rule. Eliminates the requirements that certain commercial vehicles transporting goods or people display (1) the carrier's address on the vehicle's power unit, and (2) the main state of the carrier company or the vehicle's operation.

7 Hazardous materials safety permits. Requires that a motor carrier transporting certain hazardous materials (such as radioactive material, certain explosives, materials that are poisonous by inhalation, and liquefied gas) must obtain hazardous materials safety permits. Incorporates federal requirements for the safety permits into state law.

8 Age of driver under federal materials-of-trade regulation. Clarifies that the exception allowing a minimum age of 18 for certain drivers, whose only hazardous material being transported is "materials of trade" (if it is transported in a manner that meets federal requirements), applies to transportation within Minnesota and not to interstate transportation.

Under current law, the minimum age is 21, with certain exceptions such as this one, for drivers transporting hazardous materials.

"Materials of trade" is hazardous material whose purpose is to protect the health and safety of the operator or passengers, support the operation or maintenance of the motor vehicle, or support a motor carrier's principal business when it is not transportation by vehicle.

9 Required to provide information. Authorizes MnDOT to obtain and copy any hazardous materials safety permits (see section 0).

10 Reciprocal agreement. Makes conforming changes related to the Unified Carrier Registration Agreement.

11 Procedure. Requires interstate motor carriers to comply with federal laws and regulations established under the Unified Carrier Registration Agreement.

12 Commissioner's authority. Directs MnDOT to enter into the Unified Carrier Registration Agreement and administer the program as directed by federal laws and regulations.

13 Repealer. Repeals the current system for regulating interstate motor carriers, which is federally established but has expired.