

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 3168

DATE: March 18, 2010

Version: First engrossment

Authors: Nelson

Subject: Oversize/overweight load escorts

Analyst: Matt Burress, 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.

Overview

This bill creates a new certification process for drivers to escort vehicles having an oversize or overweight load, including provisions on traffic control powers, certificate requirements, and agency rulemaking.

Section

- 1** **Obedience to traffic-control signal or flagger; presumptions.** Authorizes an overdimensional load escort driver to act as a flagger who can stop motor vehicles as part of the escort activity. Requires that drivers stop and proceed only as directed by the flagger or a peace officer.
- 2** **Escort vehicles.** Establishes that an oversize/overweight vehicle permit issued by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) or a local road authority must identify the number of escort vehicles required and whether the escort can be performed by the holder of an overdimensional load escort driver certificate (created in section 3 of the bill).
- 3** **Overdimensional load escort driver.** Creates a new certificate to authorize overdimensional load escort drivers.

Subd. 1. Definition. Defines “overdimensional load” for the section.

Subd. 2. Certificate. Requires issuance by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety of an overdimensional load escort driver certificate in order to escort oversize or overweight vehicles. Creates a fee for the certificate, to be set by the department to match its administrative costs.

Subd. 3. Qualifications. Establishes minimum qualifications for the certificate, which include:

- Being at least 18 years old;

- Having a valid driver's license for the escort vehicle being operated;
- Completion of a certification course established by the department; and
- Meeting any other requirements set by the department.

Subd. 4. Penalty. Establishes a misdemeanor penalty for violation of the certificate provisions.

Subd. 5. Rules. Requires the commissioner to adopt rules to implement this section.

- 4** **Effective date.** Makes the rulemaking provision effective the day after enactment, and the remaining provisions effective one year after the department publishes new rules on the certification in the State Register.