HOUSE RESEARCH =

Bill Summary =

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Overview

This bill makes various changes related to speeding and other traffic regulation, to: adjust speed limit requirements in work zones, prevent certain speeding violations from appearing on a person's driving record, require driving in the right-hand lane of multilane highways, and modify the contents of the driver's manual to include discussion of the right-hand driving requirement.

Section

Speed zoning in work zone; surcharge. Modifies speed limit adjustments in a work zone, to allow it to be set at no more than 40 m.p.h. on nondivided two-lane highways that have a regular speed limit of at least 60 m.p.h.

The change would resolve an internal conflict in the statute governing work zone speed limits. In a work zone under current law:

- the speed limit can be reduced by no more than 15 miles per hour; and
- On a nondividied highway, the maximum allowable speed limit is 40 miles per hour (and is 55 m.p.h. on a divided highway).

On a nondivided highway having a normal speed limit of 60 m.p.h., a work zone speed limit reduction by 15 m.p.h. would set the limit at 45 m.p.h., which would be above the maximum allowable limit of 40 m.p.h.

- 2 Laned highway. Directs MnDOT, counties, cities, and towns to erect signs as appropriate instructing motorists on right-hand lane travel requirements. Clarifies via a cross reference that vehicles must be driven in the right-hand lane.
- Wehicle operation in right-hand lane. Mandates driving a vehicle in the right-hand lane on multilane roads, if safe to do so, except under certain cases. The exceptions include when

passing, making a left turn, entering or exiting a highway, in a lane designated for a specific type of traffic, and as otherwise directed.

Establishes a \$50 fine for violations (it would be a petty misdemeanor).

- Traffic safety education account; appropriation. Creates a traffic safety education account, specifies that all fines from a right-hand lane violation must go into the account, and creates a standing appropriation of the funds to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for the State Patrol to perform traffic safety education programs. The account goes into effect July 1, 2010.
- Certain convictions not recorded. Amends a provision (commonly known as the "Dimler amendment") preventing certain speeding violations from being recorded on a person's driving record, so that violations of up to and including 10 miles per hour over a 60 m.p.h. limit are not recorded. Currently, those violations in a 60 m.p.h. zone that are not recorded are only those of up to 5 miles per hour over the limit.
- 6 Driver's manual; restricted driving in left lane. Mandates that the next update to the driver's manual must cover driving in left- and right-hand lanes.
- 7 Surcharges on criminal and traffic offenders. Exempts the right-hand lane violation from the \$75 surcharge applied to other traffic offenses and other crimes.
- **8** Revisor's instruction. Makes a technical change, to recodify provisions on the driver's manual to a new section in Minnesota Statutes.