

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This bill authorizes mini truck operation on local streets and highways under a special permit issued by the local unit of government. The authority expires July 31, 2012.

#### Section

- 1 Mini truck.** Defines a “mini truck” in the chapter on traffic regulations to be: a four wheeled motor vehicle that (1) has a electric motor of up to 7.5 kilowatts or an engine with a displacement of up to 660 cc, (2) has a total dry weight (weighed before any loads or occupants) of 900 to 2,200 pounds, (3) contains a enclosed cabin and seat for the operator, (4) resembles a pickup truck or van, and (5) was not originally manufactured to meet federal safety standards for passenger vehicles (except it can meet the federal low-speed vehicle standard). Neighborhood electric vehicles and medium-speed electric vehicles are not mini trucks.
- 2 Special vehicle use on roadway.** Authorizes counties, cities, and towns to issue special permits for mini trucks to be able to be driven on that political subdivision’s roads.  
  
The special permit is generally the same as provided under current law for motorized golf carts and certain all-terrain vehicles. Unlike operators of golf carts and eligible all-terrain vehicles, mini truck operators must have a driver’s license and can drive the vehicle at night. Other requirements, which apply to all of the vehicles allowed to be driven with the permit, include: creation of an ordinance by the local unit of government; authority to cross streets on which the vehicle can not otherwise be driven; application of all relevant traffic regulations to the vehicle; and, allowing for purchasing insurance under the Minnesota Automobile Insurance Plan.
- 3 Required equipment on mini trucks.** Identifies required equipment for mini trucks operated under the special permit, including headlamps and taillights, turn signals, rear view mirrors, a windshield, seatbelts, and a parking break.

- 4 **Effective date.** Makes the provisions effective August 1, 2009, and expire on July 31, 2012.