## HOUSE RESEARCH =

## Bill Summary =

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1284 **DATE:** April 30, 2012

**Version:** Fifth engrossment

**Authors:** Beard

**Subject:** 2011 Transportation policy omnibus

**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 is a transportation policy omnibus bill (also known as omnibus #1), containing provisions previously considered in 2011.

- Bicycle use of trails. Prevents prohibition of electric-assisted bicycles, unless there are issues with safety or general welfare, on any state trail (managed by the Department of Natural Resources) where bikes are allowed.
- **Authority of local government.** Prevents prohibition of electric-assisted bicycles, unless there are issues with safety or general welfare, on any trail under a Department of Natural Resources grant program in which bikes, or nonmotorized use more generally, are allowed.
- Nonmotorized use trails. Makes a conforming change to in effect treat operation of electric-assisted bicycles as nonmotorized use.
- 4 Powers of political subdivision. Prevents a county, city, town, park board, or other local unit of government from prohibiting electric-assisted bicycles, unless there are issues with safety or general welfare, on dedicated bicycle paths, bicycle lanes established on a roadway, roadways, and shoulders.
- [160.266] Mississippi River Trial. Requires MnDOT, in conjunction with local authorities and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, to identify a Mississippi River Trail bikeway. Specifies the general route, requires support of connections to other trails, authorizes contracts and agreements, and provides for eligible funding sources.
- **Restrictions on toll facility.** Adds exceptions to a general prohibition on tolled roads, for:
  - a lane that adds capacity, is temporarily operated as a general purpose or auxiliary lane, and is subsequently converted to a high-occupancy toll lane;
  - an auxiliary lane that is converted to a high-occupancy toll lane; and
  - a general purpose lane that is converted to a high-occupancy toll lane, if capacity is added in the same segment of highway and the segment has been formally designated a MnPASS corridor.

- **Fees authorized.** Clarifies that user fees (tolls) can be imposed in high-occupancy toll lanes.
- **Deposit of revenues; appropriation.** Amends the allocation of revenue collected from user fees (tolls) on the trunk highway system, implemented through the MnPASS program. Removes a provision on initial repayment to the trunk highway fund, requires funds to go to MnPASS system operation, and requires that remaining funds for each MnPASS corridor set up in the future be used by MnDOT for capital improvements within that corridor.
- **Veterans Memorial Highway.** Eliminates a reference to the route number identified in state statute for a portion of Trunk Highway 200 running from the North Dakota border that is named "Veterans Memorial Highway."
- Arianna Celeste Macnamara Memorial Bridge. Designates a pedestrian bridge over Trunk Highway 14 in Rochester as the "Arianna Celeste Macnamara Memorial Bridge." Directs the Department of Transportation to erect signage near the bridge. The signs must be paid for through nonstate sources of funds.
- Deputy John W. Liebenstein Memorial Highway. Designate a portion of Interstate 35 that runs through Rice County as "Deputy John. W. Liebenstein Memorial Highway," identifies locations for memorial signs to be placed, and requires that the funds for signage come from nonstate sources.
- Small business contracts. Revises MnDOT's targeted group business program for providing preferences in state-funded transportation contracts. Limits eligibility and requires a legislative report. Makes technical changes.
- Working capital fund. Narrows eligibility to small businesses, updates terminology, and revises references to federal regulations, in a MnDOT provision allowing for grants to nonprofit organizations that provide or assist with loans to small disadvantaged businesses to help them obtain governmental contracts.
- Municipal state-aid transition. Sets a city population at 5,000 for purposes of receiving municipal state-aid street (MSAS) funds, if the city had a 5,000 or higher population just before the federal census but dropped to under 5,000 in the census. Allows such cities to continue to receive MSAS funds for four years.
- **Estimate of accruals; allocation.** Makes a conforming change, to identify municipal state-aid allocation procedures including debt service payments required under another section of the bill.
- **16 Factors in formula.** Makes a conforming change.
- **Authorization; limitation on amount.** Changes a requirement on the source of funds to be used for paying debt service on bonds issued by a city that are backed by municipal state-aid street funds, so that it does not apply when the city is not receiving municipal state-aid.
- Certifications; payment. Requires MnDOT to continue providing municipal state-aid street funds to a city whose population fell below the eligibility cut-off for the aid, if the city had issued bonds against this funding stream prior to the effective date of the provision. The amount of continued aid must be the annual amount necessary for debt service on the bonds. Makes technical changes.
- Motorcycle. Shifts the definition of motorcycle in the chapter governing motor vehicle registration to use the definition in the chapter on traffic regulations.
- Motorized bicycle. Shifts the definition of motorized bicycle in the chapter governing motor vehicle registration to use the definition in the chapter on traffic regulations.

- Vehicles exempt from tax, fees, or plate display. Allows Department of Natural Resources (DNR) vehicles used by DNR conservation officers to be unmarked when registered as tax-exempt.
- **Electric-assisted bicycles.** Prevents electric-assisted bicycles from being subject to motor vehicle registration tax or registration with the state.
- Optional donation for education on anatomical gifts. Requires Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) in the Department of Public Safety to include procedures for vehicle owners to donate \$2 for organ donation educational programs as part of payment of vehicle registration taxes, when paid in-person at a deputy registrar's office.
- Additional fee. Eliminates an optional \$2 donation procedure for organ donation educational programs, made available as part of the vehicle registration renewal process.
- No certificate issued. Establishes that a certificate of title is no longer required for electric-assisted bicycles.
- Public impound lot. Shifts certain impound lots to be treated in state statutes as nonpublic lots instead of public lots, if the lot is privately owned and does not operate under an exclusive contract with a local governmental unit for public use. For applicable lots, the change has the effect of (1) allowing the lot operator to retain all proceeds from sale of a vehicle and its contents after following statutory procedures; and (2) providing that the lot operator can make a deficiency claim against the vehicle owner for any losses incurred in towing and storing the vehicle.
- **Bicycle.** Makes a conforming change, amending the definition of bicycle in the chapter on traffic regulations to allow for inclusion of electric-assisted bicycles.
- **Electric-assisted bicycle.** Amends the definition of electric-assisted bicycle to clarify an inconsistency on vehicle type, eliminate three-wheeled devices, and include bicycles that are regulated by the Consumer Products Safety Commission. The change has the effect of treating all bicycles with attached motors (that also meet certain requirements) as electric-assisted bicycles regardless of which federal agency regulates the equipment and manufacture of the bicycle.
- Motorcycle. Makes a clarifying change, to amend the definition of motorcycle in the chapter on traffic regulations so that it excludes electric-assisted bicycles.
- Motorized bicycle. Amends the definition of motorized bicycle in the chapter on traffic regulations so that it excludes electric-assisted bicycles. This in conjunction with conforming changes has the effect of modifying electric-assisted bicycle regulation to be in a manner similar to bicycles.
- Working on highway. Broadens the exceptions from weight limits on vehicles operated for road authorities (such as MnDOT, counties, and cities), to (1) add an exception for preparation and movement of equipment to handle snow, ice, and slippery conditions; and (2) extend the weight limits exception for those performing snow or ice removal to cover all persons operating a vehicle on behalf of the road authority.
- Trains. Exempts train engineers, conductors, and other train crew members from (1) being required by a peace officer to provide a driver's license in relation to operation of a train or other on-track equipment, and (2) issuance of a citation for violating driver's license or traffic regulation prohibitions that involve operation of a train or on-track equipment.
- **Local authority.** Prohibits local units of government from imposing a criminal penalty for violations of a locally mandated method of purchasing motor fuel.
- **Traffic-control signal.** Clarifies signage, driving, and right-of-way rules with circular green signals.

- **Flashing signal.** Clarifies driving and right-of-way rules with flashing circular yellow signals and flashing yellow arrow signals. Establishes that a driver must yield right-of-way to certain pedestrians and other vehicles when facing a flashing yellow arrow.
- **Signal to turn.** Exempts a motorist from having to signal a turn 100 feet prior to turning, when exiting a roundabout.
- **Riding rules.** Establishes that unless prohibited a person can operate an electric-assisted bicycle on a roadway shoulder, a bicycle lane established on a roadway, a signed bicycle route, a dedicated bicycle path, and a state trail that permits other bicycles.
- **Operator and passenger equipment.** Makes technical changes, to reproduce a provision (eliminated in another part of the bill) requiring electric-assisted bicycle operators under age 18 to wear a certified motorcycle or bicycle helmet.
- **Operator age.** Establishes a minimum age of 15 to operate an electric-assisted bicycle (which matches the minimum age for an instruction permit to operate the vehicle under current law).
- 40 Sale with reflectors and other equipment. Makes technical and clarifying changes.
- Safety equipment; parking. Amends provisions governing mopeds (termed "motorized bicycles" in state statutes), to (1) eliminate regulations specific to electric-assisted bicycles; (2) update bicycle helmet requirements to reference the most recent helmet safety standards; and (3) make clarifying changes. Electric-assisted bicycle regulations are reproduced and modified elsewhere in the bill.
- **Other operation requirements and prohibitions.** Eliminates regulations specific to electric-assisted bicycles from a provision governing mopeds. Electric-assisted bicycle regulations are reproduced and modified elsewhere in the bill.
- **Use of shoulders by buses.** Expands authority for buses to operate on the shoulder of freeways (divided highways with limited access) and expressways (divided highways with partial access control), so that counties and towns having jurisdiction over the road can authorize the buses.
- Colored light. Permits a vehicle to have red or other colored lights that do not meet lighting requirements in law, if the vehicle (1) was originally manufactured as an emergency vehicle (such as a fire truck), (2) bears one of various collector and classic car license plates, and (3) is not used for general transportation purposes. The lights can only be used in special events.
- Exceptions. Eliminates an exception for certain lighter school buses from mandatory use of child restraints. The exception that applies to some type III vehicles (that are manufactured as buses) as well as type A-I school buses is removed, so that child restraints are required for a type III vehicle or school bus having a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less.
- **Other motor vehicles.** Limits license plate display on passenger vehicles to a single plate, to be displayed in specific locations on the rear of the vehicle.
- **Display and inspection of permit.** Permits carrying an electronic instead of physical permit when transporting an overdimensional load by special permit. Narrows authority for who can inspect the permit. Makes technical changes.
- **Fees; proceeds deposited; appropriation.** Adds an additional weight class (145,001 to 155,000 pounds) and corresponding fee (\$900) to an alternative fee schedule that is in statute for certain overdimensional vehicle annual permits. Makes technical changes and removes obsolete language.
- **Speed.** Makes a conforming change to a provision on recording certain speed violations.

- **Revocation periods for DWI convictions.** Recodifies language on license revocation periods for DWI-related offenses (which is repealed in the bill), to place all relevant provisions into one section of statutes. Makes technical changes.
- Applicability of implied consent revocation. Narrows the alcohol concentration cut-off allowed for a reduced driver's license revocation period (of 60 or 90 days) instead of a longer period (of at least one year) for DWI violations under certain circumstances. The shorter period could apply with an alcohol concentration of up to twice the legal limit (0.16 BAC) instead of up to 0.20 BAC. (This provision aligns with changes made in Laws 2010, Chapter 366, throughout the license revocation provisions.)
- Motorized bicycle. Shifts the definition of motorized bicycle in the chapter governing driver licensing to use the definition in the chapter on traffic regulations. This has the effect of eliminating driver's license or operator's permit requirements for operating an electric-assisted bicycle.
- Persons exempt. Exempts train engineers, conductors, and other train crew members from the requirements of holding a driver's license to operate a train or other on-track equipment.
- Person less than 18 years of age. Modifies driver's education requirements for a person under age 18 to obtain an instruction permit, so that the classroom/theory portion of driver's education can be completed through an online program approved by the Department of Public Safety.
  - Establishes a completion certificate and imposes a \$2 per certificate fee on online driver's education providers, which "blinks off" once the department's costs to implement the program are covered via a statutory appropriation that is also made. Makes technical changes.
- Fee; equipment. Allows payment of driver's license and identification card fees by credit or debit card, and authorizes driver's license agents (who perform driver licensing under the purview of the Department of Public Safety) to impose a convenience fee. Any convenience fee must not exceed the cost of processing credit and debit card transactions. Provides streamlined rulemaking authority concerning the payments.
- **[171.0703] Internet-based driver education.** Directs the Department of Public Safety to include, in its rulemaking on online driver's education, a maximum of three hours per day of online instruction.
- **Anatomical gift account.** Makes a conforming change.
- **Certain convictions not recorded.** Prohibits speed limit violations of up to (and including) ten miles per hour over the speed limit in both 55 and 60 miles per hour zones from going on a person's driving record.
- **Conditions of issuance.** Makes conforming changes.
- **Issuance of restricted license.** Makes conforming changes.
- Alternative financing and investment in a pilot transportation project. Authorizes MnDOT to undertake a pilot project that uses alternative financing under agreement with a governmental or nongovernmental agency as a financing or investment source, subject to funding availability and sign-off from the Department of Management and Budget. Requires legislative reporting on the financial details of the agreement.
- Report on major highway projects and trunk highway fund expenditures. Expands and centralizes MnDOT reporting on highway project and trunk highway finance. Reduces the project cost threshold for including projects in the report, adds additional detail to be provided, and recodifies a separate report on trunk highway fund expenditures. Provides delayed effective dates on some of

the new reporting requirements.

- Waiver for other medical condition. Modifies the requirements for a commercial vehicle driver to be able to obtain a state waiver from certain physical and physician certification requirements, applicable to intrastate vehicle operation. Under the change, a waiver cannot be granted if the applicant has in the previous three years been convicted of various violations involving driving without a valid license.
- **Contract.** Eliminates an obsolete reference to a federal rail program that no longer exists.
- **Participation by political subdivision.** Eliminates an obsolete reference to a federal rail program that no longer exists.
- **Acceptance of federal money.** Eliminates an obsolete reference to a federal rail program that no longer exists.
- **Rail bank property use; misdemeanor.** Amends a provision on state rail bank property, to expand the list of restricted activities on the property; allow for placement of fencing and signs if authorized by MnDOT; and make knowing violations of the statute a misdemeanor instead of a petty misdemeanor.
- Exemptions: certain manufacturers; commissioner of transportation; road maintenance.

  Exempts contracts for snow and ice removal, grading, and similar work from requirements governing contractors carrying a surety bond. Raises the upper limit contract amount, from \$75,000 to \$100,000, for contracts with MnDOT in which the Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to forego surety bond requirements for contractors.
- **Terms.** Raises the upper limit contract amount, from \$75,000 to \$100,000, for contracts in which surety bond requirements for contractors do not apply.
- **Variance**; **seaplane base.** Requires MnDOT to issue a variance for licensing a public seaplane on Flekkefjord Lake, which abuts the Elbow Lake Municipal Airport, and allows the agency to establish any necessary conditions on the license.
- Additions to reports on major highway project and trunk highway fund expenditures.

  Adds additional requirements to a MnDOT legislative report being modified in section 45 of the bill, so that for the 2012 and 2013 issuances of the report, MnDOT must perform evaluations of certain agency data management systems either by internal or external audit.
- Municipal state-aid street 2013 allocation. Adjusts the allocation of municipal state-aid street funds for the calendar year 2013 distribution, to first provide funds to cities that did not receive aid in 2012 (due to declines in population that brought the cities below the eligibility cut-off for the aid).
- **St. Louis County; J-turn prohibition.** Prohibits construction of a J-turn intersection at U.S. 53 and County Highway 52 in St. Louis County.
- 74 Repealer.
  - **161.08**, **subd. 2**: repeals a MnDOT report that is recodified in section 62 of the bill (which combines two agency reports into one).
  - **168.012**, **subd. 1b**: repeals a provision requiring display of the DNR department's name on both sides of a vehicle.
  - **169A.54**, **subd. 5**: repeals a provision on DWI license revocation that is recodified elsewhere in the bill.

222.48, subd. 3a: removes a definition of a federal rail program that no longer exists.

**Effective date.** Makes the bill effective August 1, 2012, unless another date is specified for a provision.