— HOUSE RESEARCH ————— _____ Bill Summary ___

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Overview

This is an omnibus bill containing state agency-sponsored transportation policy provisions (also see H.F. 1068 for a broader transportation policy omnibus).

- 1 [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.
- 2 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."
- **3 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.
- 4 **Noncommercial vehicle.** Defines "noncommercial vehicle" for the chapter on vehicle registration and plates, to be a one-ton pickup truck (1) that is registered as a truck, (2) that has a gross vehicle weight of 15,000 pounds or less, and (3) for which the vehicle owner has submitted a declaration that the vehicle is solely for personal use.
- **5 One-ton pickup truck.** Defines "one-ton pickup truck" for the chapter on vehicle registration and plates, to be a pickup truck that (1) has a rated carrying capacity of one ton, or (2) if the carrying capacity is not known, has a gross vehicle weight that is between 10,001 and 15,000 pounds.
- 6 Passenger automobile. Modifies the definition of "passenger automobile" for the chapter on vehicle registration and plates, to eliminate a provision that has not yet gone into effect allowing certain noncommercial pickup trucks and vans to be registered and pay registration taxes in the same manner as passenger automobiles (such as cars, station wagons, and SUVs).
- 7 Pickup truck. Modifies the definition of "pickup truck" for the chapter on vehicle registration and

plates, to include pickup trucks with a gross vehicle weight of less than 10,000 pounds when the rated carrying capacity of the truck is unknown.

- 8 Van. Modifies the definition of "van" for the chapter on vehicle registration and plates, to include vans with a gross vehicle weight of less than 10,000 pounds when the rated carrying capacity of the van is unknown.
- **9 Plates; design, visibility, periods of issuance.** Requires plates issued to noncommercial vehicles to be designed to include the inscription "noncommercial" unless a special plate is issued for the vehicle. Clarifies that special plates, if authorized for one-ton pickup trucks, can be issued for one-ton pickups that are used for commercial purposes and required to display a US DOT number.
- **10 Firefighters; special plates, rules.** Replaces a description of one-ton pickup trucks with the term defined in the bill. Makes technical changes.
- **11 General requirements; fees.** Replaces a description of one-ton pickup trucks with the term defined in the bill.
- **12 Traffic-control signal.** Clarifies signage, driving, and right-of-way rules with circular green signals.
- **13** 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.
- 14 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.
- **15 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.
- **16** Fees; proceeds deposited; appropriation. Authorizes MnDOT to issue annual special permits for hauling oversize waterfront structures such as boat lifts and portable docks. 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.
- 17 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.
- **18** Alternative financing and investment in transportation projects. 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.
- **19 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 driver's license violations (such as driving on a suspended, canceled, or revoked license).

- 20 Contract. Eliminates an obsolete reference to a federal rail program that no longer exists.
- 21 Participation by political subdivision. Eliminates an obsolete reference to a federal rail program that no longer exists.
- **22** Acceptance of federal money. Eliminates an obsolete reference to a federal rail program that no longer exists.
- 23 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.

24 Repealer.

(a) Removes a definition of a federal rail program that no longer exists.

(**b**) Makes a conforming change, to eliminate a delayed effective date of March 1, 2012, on a pickup truck definition that is being revised in the bill.