

DATE: April 30, 2012

FILE NUMBER: Version:	H.F. 2685 Fourth engrossment
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Subject:	2012 transportation policy omnibus
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Overview

This is the 2012 transportation policy omnibus bill (also known as omnibus #2).

- **1 Trunk highway; temporary sign.** Allows counties, cities, and towns to issue permits for temporarily placing signs on bridges that are under the jurisdiction of the road authority issuing the permit and go over trunk highways. Establishes various conditions for the road authority and the signs.
- 2 **Right-of-way use; misdemeanors.** Makes conforming changes.
- **3 Black and Yellow Trail.** Designates the entire length of Trunk Highway 14 in Minnesota as the "Black and Yellow Trail," and directs MnDOT to design and erect signage. The signs must be paid for through nonstate sources of funds.
- **4 Debt collection.** Requires the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to provide accident reports as requested by MnDOT if there is damage to state-owned infrastructure due to the accident.
- 5 Contingent appropriations; trunk highway system. Establishes appropriations that apply only if a budget for state roads has not been enacted by July 1 of an odd-numbered year (budget year). The first appropriation is from the trunk highway fund to the Commissioner of Transportation in an amount necessary to cover the actual costs of contracts, as well as essential Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) employees needed for contract administration and receipt of associated federal funds, for state road construction; operation and maintenance on state roads; and program planning and delivery. The contingent appropriation only covers contracts in which funds were originally encumbered prior to July 1 of the applicable year.

A second appropriation is made from the general fund to the Commissioner of Management and Budget for the associated costs of accounting, payroll, and human resources necessary to the contingent trunk highway fund appropriation being authorized.

- **6** Construction manager/general contractor; definitions. Defines terms for a temporary MnDOT program on construction manager/general contractor contracting.
- 7 Construction manager/general contractor; authority. Authorizes MnDOT to enter into contracts for a construction manager or general contractor, provides for contract cancellation, and specifies

legislative reporting when such a contract is used. The program is limited to ten contracts.

- 8 Construction manager/general contractor; procedures. Establishes the process and various requirements governing evaluation and selection of a construction manager or general contractor under the temporary MnDOT program. Provides for solicitation, requests for proposals, technical review committee evaluation, and contract negotiations.
- 9 Small business contracts. Revises MnDOT's bid preference program in state-funded transportation contracts for targeted group businesses and veteran-owned small businesses. Clarifies subcontracting goals and requirements, sets a minimum bid preference for veteran-owned small businesses, requires a periodic disparity review for targeted group businesses, limits eligibility, and requires a legislative report. Makes technical changes.
- **10** Working capital fund. Clarifies 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 assist with business operations costs during work on governmental contracts.
- **11** Additional municipal state-aid street cities. Provides for financial assistance to cities through the municipal state-aid street fund, for local impacts of the St. Croix River crossing bridge project.
- **12** Definitions. Defines terms for the chapter on bridges. Incorporates national and federal bridge-related standards by reference.
- **13** Strength of bridge; inspection. Modifies various bridge inspection procedures and requirements, including inspection frequency, adoption of national standards, MnDOT authority to establish inspection and inventory procedures, and bridge posting requirements.
- 14 Motorcycle. Shifts the definition of motorcycle in the chapter governing motor vehicle registration to use the definition in the chapter on traffic regulations.
- 15 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.
- **16** Electric-assisted bicycles. Prevents electric-assisted bicycles from being subject to motor vehicle registration tax or registration with the state.
- 17 Application; cancellation; excessive gross weight forbidden. Broadens a "first haul" exception from certain vehicle weight regulations. The exception applies to vehicles that exceed weight limits by ten percent or less and are performing the first transport of unprocessed farm products or unfinished forest products from the place of production to a location within 50 miles. Under the change, the transportation range when the exception is in place is increased from 50 to 100 miles.
- **18** 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.
- **19** Additional fee. Eliminates an optional \$2 donation procedure for organ donation educational programs, made available as part of the vehicle registration renewal process.
- 20 General requirements; fees. Eliminates a \$5 surcharge on some special veterans license plates issued for one-ton pickup trucks.
- 21 USDOT numbers. Exempts farm trucks that are not physically operated outside of Minnesota from a state statute requiring commercial vehicles to have a USDOT number.

- 22 No certificate issued. Establishes that a certificate of title is no longer required for electric-assisted bicycles.
- 23 Ownership at issue; certificate withheld or bond filed. Provides for issuance of a vehicle title on an older vehicle for which an owner or lienholder cannot be contacted, if the title applicant provides, among other items, (1) an affidavit regarding the vehicle and attempts made to contact other owners or lienholders, and (2) a surety bond at one and a half of the vehicle's value (to indemnify the parties that were not contacted as part of the title transfer). Provides for expiration of the bond. Makes technical and conforming changes.
- 24 Bicycle. Makes a conforming change, amending the definition of bicycle in the chapter on traffic regulations to allow the term to include electric-assisted bicycles.
- **25** Electric-assisted bicycle. Amends the definition of electric-assisted bicycle to clarify the vehicle type 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 some other requirements) as electric-assisted bicycles regardless of which federal agency regulates the equipment and manufacture of the bicycle.
- 26 Motorcycle. Makes a clarifying change, to amend the definition of motorcycle in the chapter on traffic regulations so that it excludes electric-assisted bicycles.
- 27 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.
- 28 Obedience to traffic-control signal or flagger; presumptions. Permits holders of a motorcycle road guard certificate who are acting as a flagger for a motorcycle ride to stop and hold traffic, and override traffic control devices to direct motorcycle operators or other vehicles, following certain conditions. Requires drivers to remain stopped until directed to proceed.
- **29** 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.
- **30** Bicycle equipment. Modifies allowable bicycle equipment to include white forward-facing flashing lights and studded bicycle tires. Makes technical changes.
- **31** 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.
- **32** 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).
- 33 Sale with reflectors and other equipment. Makes technical and clarifying changes.
- **34** 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.
- **35** 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.

- 36 Solid rubber, metal, and studded tires; exceptions; permits. Makes conforming and technical changes.
- **37** Escort vehicles. Makes a conforming change, to include civilian escort drivers in a provision on specifying who can perform an escort of a particular overdimensional load.
- 38 Limit on civil penalties. Narrows the timeline under which a civil penalty for overweight vehicles can be imposed based on vehicle weight records, so that the penalty assessment must take place within 60 days of weight record inspection.
- **39** Colors and markings. Expands the allowable main color of the vehicle of a county sheriff's office to include black or gold.
- 40 Security guard vehicle. Allows security companies to continue to operate gold security vehicles if they were put into use prior to August 1, 2012.
- 41 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.
- 42 Exception for type III vehicle drivers. Modifies drug and alcohol testing requirements for type III vehicle operators under a provision that allows driving the vehicle without a commercial driver's license. The change establishes that when drug and alcohol testing by an employer follows federal transportation testing procedures, the employee and the employer are not subject to testing following procedures in state statutes.
- **43** Anatomical gift account. Makes a conforming change.
- 44 [171.60] Motorcycle road guard certificate. Establishes a motorcycle road guard certificate program. Directs the Department of Public Safety to set qualifications to obtain a certificate; create and provide a certification course; and establish vehicle and equipment standards. Provides for rulemaking and setting a fee.
- 45 Statewide freight and passenger rail plan; freight rail economic development study. Directs MnDOT and the Department of Employment and Economic Development to conduct a study of economic development through freight rail, and requires study findings to be incorporated into MnDOT's Minnesota Comprehensive Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan. Requires legislative reports on the study. Makes technical changes.
- 46 Small vehicle passenger service. Eliminates MnDOT administrative rules on special transportation service from applying to nonemergency medical transportation provided in small vehicles (those designed for no more than six passengers) that is paid for under the medical assistance program.
- **47** Driver and vehicle services technology account. Prevents further expenditures from an account for replacement of the DVS information technology system until the Department of Public Safety enters into at least one contract with a vendor to develop the system.
- **48** Definition. Defines "civilian escort driver" for a section of law on certificates to provide escorts on overdimensional loads.
- **49** Civilian escort driver. Exempts civilian escort drivers from the requirements of a certificate program currently being developed through rulemaking by the Department of Public Safety (following a 2010 statutory change), so that departmental policies in effect as of January 1, 2012, on overdimensional load escorts apply instead of the new certificate program under administrative rules.
- 50 Escort service; appropriation; receipts. Modifies rates set in state statute that are charged by the State Patrol for performing vehicle escorts, non-vehicle escorts, and flight services. Allows the State Patrol

service. 51 Veteran-owned small business contracts. Authorizes counties, at the discretion of each county, to create a bid preference program for veteran-owned small businesses competing for county contracts for goods and services, including construction-related services. 52 Replacement service; eligibility. Authorizes the Metropolitan Council to provide financial assistance to qualifying cities and towns (or combinations) that opt out of Metro Transit service in order to provide transit service independently. Places a sunset of July 1, 2016, for a new municipality to submit an application for financial assistance under this provision. 53 Financial assistance. Directs the Metropolitan Council to establish an allocation of funds to municipalities opting out of Metro Transit service under section 61 of the bill. Provides that the current law formula for allocating motor vehicle sales tax (MVST) funds to suburban transit providers does not apply to additional municipalities that opt out. Makes technical changes. Recreational purpose. Adds noncommercial aviation to a list of activities taking place on a person's 54 land that the landowner can allow without being subject to civil liability. Effective date. Extends by two years (to July 31, 2014) a sunset on provisions that authorize local 55 units of government to issue special permits for mini trucks to be able to be driven on their respective roads. 56 Metropolitan Council. Eliminates a combined freeze and reduction, for fiscal year 2013, in the amount of funds provided by the Metropolitan Council to suburban transit providers (opt-outs). Legislative route no. 227 removed. Provides for turnback of Trunk Highway 227 from Nimrod to 57 Sebeka, to Wadena County. Legislative route no. 258 removed. Provides for turnback of Trunk Highway 258 from Comfrey to 58 Trunk Highway 14, to Brown County. Legislative route no. 291 removed. Provides for turnback of Trunk Highway 291 in the city of 59 Hastings, to the city. Trunk Highway 47 maintenance. Authorizes Anoka County to perform maintenance work on the 60 stretch of Trunk Highway 47 located within the county north of Trunk Highway 10. 61 I-94 noise impacts stakeholder group. Requires creation of a stakeholder group to provide input on noise issues during the design process when a trunk highway project around I-94 and Trunk Highway 280 is being developed. Legislative reports on contracting. Requires interim and final legislative reports on MnDOT's 62 temporary construction manager/general contractor program. Revisor's instruction. Directs the Revisor of Statutes to recodify certain provisions relating to towing 63 and tow trucks, which centralizes them into a chapter of state statutes governing abandoned vehicles and towing. Rules repealer. Repeals MnDOT administrative rules governing bridge inspections, inventory, and **64** rating. Aspects of the rules being repealed are recreated in state statutes (elsewhere in the bill). 65 Effective date. Except for rulemaking authority, makes provisions on motorcycle road guard certificates effective one year following publication of associated administrative rules.

to increase or adjust escort rates, in fiscal year 2014 and after, to equal the costs of providing the

66 Effective date. Makes the bill effective August 1, 2012, unless another date is specified.