

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill contains various MnDOT housekeeping and policy proposals.

Section

- 1** **Commissioner may establish program.** Expands eligible types of businesses to include attractions under MnDOT's logo sign program for advertising along Interstates and controlled access trunk highways.
- 2** **Eligibility criteria for business panels.** Makes various changes in the requirements for businesses that advertise in the logo sign program. Sets requirements for attractions that are authorized to advertise under section 1 of the bill.
- 3** **Franchises.** Makes conforming changes.
- 4** **Trunk highway emergency relief account.** Allows funds in the trunk highway emergency relief account to be expended for operations and maintenance related to a disaster. Removes a requirement that account interest be credited to the account.
- 5** **Variances from rules and engineering standards.** Modifies the process for requesting variances from engineering standards for the county state-aid highway system, to eliminate publication of the request in the State Register and to only require hearings only after request denial.
- 6** **Variances from rules and engineering standards.** Modifies the process for requesting variances from engineering standards for the municipal state-aid street system, to eliminate publication of the request in the State Register and to only require hearings only after request

Section

denial.

- 7 Money needs defined.** Amends the calculation of money needs to eliminate exclusion of certain county roads with a combination designation (which is no longer used). Money needs are used in a formula-based allocation of municipal state-aid street funds among cities.
- 8 Method of payment, assistance.** Allows MnDOT, in conjunction with the repealer in section 14 of the bill, to determine the timing of payments to public transit providers for operating assistance.
- 9 Uniform warning signs.** Amends the types of uniform signs that can be placed at railroad crossings, including allowing a yield sign and modifying terminology for sign types.
- 10 Railroad to erect sign.** Decreases the maximum distance from a railroad crossing that crossbuck signs must be placed and maintained by railroads, from 75 to 50 feet. Provides for MnDOT to authorize a greater distance.
- 11 Stop sign; yield sign.** Clarifies when requirements apply for placing stop signs or yield signs at railroad crossings, to exclude crossings that are equipped with flashing lights or with lights and gates. Makes conforming changes.
- 12 Qualification of driver.** Sets who can qualify as a “medical examiner” to perform a physical exam as part of commercial driver’s license requirements. Effective May 21, 2014, an examiner must be certified by the federal agency that oversees motor carrier safety and must be listed in a national registry maintained by the agency.
- 13 Waiver for other medical conditions.** Modifies waivers from physical requirements to operate a commercial motor vehicle, to (1) reduce the set of conditions for which a waiver may be granted, and (2) eliminate a three-year period during which the person can not have been convicted for various offenses.
- 14 Repealer.** (a) Repeals a provision directing the timing of payments to public transit providers over the course of the year, which is replaced with discretionary authority by MnDOT provided in section 8 of the bill.
- (b) Makes a conforming change to the elimination of publishing engineering variance requests being made in sections 5 and 6, to repeal an administrative rule.