

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1289  
**Version:** As Introduced

**DATE:** March 11, 2013

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**Subject:** Passenger rail

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### Overview

This bill modifies and clarifies the authority of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) regarding development and operation of passenger rail service and makes technical changes.

#### Section

- 1 Passenger rail; Commissioner's duties.** Creates a definition of "passenger rail" by reference to federal law. Includes Amtrak in a listing of examples of entities with whom MnDOT is authorized to enter into agreements for passenger rail operation.
- 2 Passenger rail; exercise of power.**
  - Subd. 1. Powers.** Eliminates an internal contradiction in MnDOT powers concerning passenger rail contracting and agreement.
  - Subd. 2. Consultation.** No changes made.
  - Subd. 3. Authority to contract; liability.** Authorizes MnDOT to contract with railroads for development and use of rail track and facilities, as well as for operation of passenger rail. Provides for application of liability provisions under state statutes. Permits agreements with Class I railroads to address financial responsibility, indemnification, and insurance.
  - Subd. 4. Public hearings.** Mandates MnDOT to hold public hearings following federal requirements.