

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2460
Version: As Introduced

DATE: March 18, 2014

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Subject: Railroads; yard lighting, photovoltaic modules

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Overview

This bill establishes requirements for railroads on rail yard lighting and use of solar photovoltaic modules that are made in Minnesota.

Section

1 [219.375] **Railroad yard lighting.** Creates a new section of statutes governing lighting requirements for railroad yards.

Subd. 1. General requirements. Mandates lighting in railroad yards between sunset and sunrise, including areas of train switching, inspection, assembly, and disassembly. Establishes requirements on the lighting and its upkeep, including specified meeting industry standards, minimum height, maintenance, and energy source.

Subd. 2. Allowances for unusual conditions. Provides exceptions for maintenance, derailments, severe weather, and reasonable time periods following the listed conditions.

Subd. 3. Lighting orders; commissioner authority. Authorizes the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in some situations to give formal orders concerning lighting.

Subd. 4. Failure to correct. Creates a separate offense for failure to correct a Commissioner's order issued by MnDOT under subdivision 3.

Subd. 5. Complaints. Requires a good faith attempt to address lighting issues with

Section

the railroad company before filing a complaint.

Subd. 6. Waiver. Permits MnDOT to give a waiver from the lighting requirements if conditions prevent compliance, MnDOT inspects the area, and the waiver would conflict with other MnDOT powers and duties.

Subd. 7. Compliance; duties of attorney general. Provides for legal enforcement of a MnDOT commissioner's order through the Attorney General.

Subd. 8. Violations and penalties. Sets a penalty of \$500 per lighting violation.

Subd. 9. Exceptions; applicability. Applies the lighting requirements to Class 1 and Class 2 railroads, exempts lighting already in place by July 1, 2014, and permits lighting that exceeds the requirements being established.

- 2** **Made in Minnesota solar installations.** Mandates use of solar photovoltaic modules that are made in Minnesota in the construction or maintenance by a railroad company in which such modules are used. Provides exceptions for federal funding conditions, lack of module availability, and resulting loss of federal funds.