

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Motor carriers of railroad employees

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### Overview

This bill modifies regulations governing motor carriers of railroad employees.

#### Section

- 1 **Inspection required.** Makes vehicles operated by a motor carrier of railroad employees subject to annual inspection under a commercial vehicle inspection provision.
- 2 **Motor carrier of railroad employees.** Modifies regulations governing motor carriers of railroad employees. Makes technical changes.

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Clarifies the definition of “on-duty time,” which has the effect of amending the hours of service requirements for drivers. Makes a technical change to move definitions to a new subdivision (moved from the end of the section of statutes).

**Subd. 2. Application.** Extends the regulations for motor carriers of railroad employees to contracted carriers.

**Subd. 3. Vehicle operator requirements.** Paragraph (a) specifies that physical examinations must meet the same requirements that are in place for commercial motor vehicle operators, and requires pre-trip and post-trip inspections

Paragraph (b) bans both hands free and handheld cell phone use when operating the vehicle.

**Subd. 4. Motor carriers of railroad employees; requirements.** Expands carrier

## **Section**

requirements, including performance of criminal background checks, maintaining a driver file that include specified documentation, and carrying increased minimum insurance coverage (raised from \$1 million to \$5 million) for under- and uninsured motorists.

**Subd. 5. Vehicle; equipment.** Establishes various vehicle equipment and condition requirements, including properly functioning seatbelts, a global positioning device, an emergency kit, and identification on the side of the vehicle meeting specified standards. Limits vehicle capacity to up to ten people including the driver. Prohibits transportation in a vehicle where the requirements are not met.

**Subd. 6. Driver disqualification; reporting.** Makes technical changes.

**Subd. 7. Testing.** Makes technical changes.

**Subd. 8. Hours of service.** Makes technical changes.

**Subd. 9. Inspection authority.** Authorizes the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the State Patrol to perform random inspections and safety reviews without a warrant.

**Subd. 10. Violation; penalties.** Makes violations of the motor carrier of railroad employees regulations a misdemeanor. Provides for civil penalty liability of up to \$1,000 per offense, and for payment of costs associated with a lawsuit.