

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Cornish

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Analyst: Jeff Diebel and Rebecca Pirius

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Overview

This is the 2016 public safety policy and finance omnibus bill.

Section

- 1 **Violations by drivers; penalties.** Amends traffic violations under Minnesota Statutes, section 169.444, by increasing the minimum fine from \$300 to \$500. Under Minnesota Statutes, section 169.444, it is a misdemeanor to fail to stop for a school bus displaying a stop arm or illegally pass on the right of a school bus flashing amber lights. **[H.F. 1948]**
- 2 **Violations; driving without a valid license.** Sets increased penalties for some repeated offenses and injury and death situations where a person operates a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license (which under current law is generally a misdemeanor). It:
 - makes it a gross misdemeanor for operating without a valid license if the person causes a collision resulting in substantial bodily harm (which is a temporary but substantial loss, impairment, fracture, or disfigurement) or a person's death;
 - makes it a gross misdemeanor for a third or subsequent operating without a valid license conviction within a ten-year period; and
 - sets minimum fines, with a provision for community service in cases of financial hardship, of (1) \$750 for a second conviction, and (2) \$1,500 for third or subsequent convictions.

The section also permits, in addition to conviction under the section of statutes on driving without a valid license, conviction for other violations arising from the driving conduct. **[H.F. 3385]**

Section

- 3** **Sensory testing research.** Allows sensory testing services to possess and serve alcohol as part of their business operations. **[H.F. 3369]**
- 4** **Avian influenza emergency response.** Extends the authorization to use disaster contingency account monies to pay for costs of eligible avian influenza emergency response activities. The revised language would permit monies in the account to be used for “any agricultural emergency” and makes the monies in the account available for these purposes through fiscal year 2019. Requires reports from the commissioner of management and budget to the Legislature by both January 15, 2018, and January 15, 2020, on monies used from the account to fund these activities.
- 5** **Correctional facility contract.** Directs the commissioner to enter into either a contract to operate and purchase or a lease to own the private prison in Appleton, Minnesota, in order to address bed capacity shortfalls in state correctional facilities. **[H.F. 3223]**
- 6** **Transfer; appropriation.** Transfers \$1,000,000 from the MINNCOR revolving fund to the general fund.