

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1715  
**Version:** As introduced

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**Subject:** MnDOT Transportation policy provisions

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### Overview

This MnDOT agency bill amends various transportation policy provisions, including on drainage connections to road ditches and drains; state bikeways; MnDOT contract preference programs; a Trunk Highway turnback; and temporary alternative damages hearings under MnDOT eminent domain proceedings.

#### Section

- 1**        **Conditions.** Modifies the range of subdivisions using a definition of “highway,” which has the effect of making a drainage provision apply within cities. The provision requires a permit for a landowner’s drain (from natural drainage) to be connected to drains or ditches within the road right-of-way.
- 2**        **Creation.** Directs MnDOT to identify state bikeways. Eliminates language on a specific bikeway route that is substantially recreated in section 4 of the bill.
- 3**        **Connections with other bikeways.** Removes a reference to the Lake Wobegon Trail. Makes conforming changes, to accommodate an additional state bikeway being established in section 5 of the bill.
- 4**        **Mississippi River Trail.** Names the Mississippi River Trail bikeway and substantially recreates language specifying the route, which is reproduced from the eliminated language in section 2 of the bill.
- 5**        **James L. Oberstar Memorial Bikeway.** Names and specifies the route for the James L. Oberstar Memorial Bikeway, running from St. Paul to the Canada border via Duluth.

**Section**

- 6**      **Small targeted group business; subcontracting goals.** Amends requirements governing good faith effort and the associated process on waivers from subcontracting goals in MnDOT's small targeted group business program.
- 7**      **Veteran-owned small business; subcontracting goals.** Amends requirements governing good faith effort and the associated process on waivers from subcontracting goals in MnDOT's veteran-owned small business program.
- 8**      **Contract awards, limitations.** Permits, instead of requiring, limits set in administrative rules of the Department of Administration to apply to MnDOT's contracting preference programs (for small targeted group businesses, veteran-owned small businesses, and small businesses in economically disadvantaged areas).
- 9**      **Legislative Route No. 275 removed.** Provides for a county turnback (that is, turning over jurisdiction) of Trunk Highway 275 (running from Boyd to U.S. Highway 212) following agreement between MnDOT and Lac qui Parle County.
- 10**     **Alternative damages appraisal; Office of Administrative Hearings.** Provides for temporary MnDOT authority to petition a court to shift a damage award hearing process as part eminent domain proceedings, to be handled by an administrative law judge in the Office of Administrative Hearings. The provision applies until June 30, 2017, for up to five transportation projects.