

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 3698

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**Version:** As proposed to be amended by H3698DE3

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**Subject:** Rail transportation provisions

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### Overview

This bill, as proposed to be amended by the H3698DE3 amendment, would: (1) modify an existing MnDOT rail and track inspection program to allow for up to nine inspectors (funded via an assessment on railroads) and make various programmatic and housekeeping changes; (2) require railroads to provide copies of bridge inspection reports to MnDOT and some local government entities; and (3) require railroads to provide notices to MnDOT on route scheduling and hazardous materials being transported.

#### Section

- 1 **State rail safety inspection program.** Amends a MnDOT rail inspection program, to:
  - ▶ increase the maximum permitted number of safety inspectors, from four to nine (with three positions required and additional positions allowed at MnDOT's discretion);
  - ▶ broaden the scope of inspection authority to include train equipment;
  - ▶ amend the proportional assessment on railroads for inspection program costs;
  - ▶ clarify the administrative costs included in calculating the railroad assessment; and
  - ▶ make technical and clarifying changes.
- 2 **[219.925] Oil, ethanol, and other hazardous substances; preparedness and information.** Requires railroads to provide bridge inspection reports and provide notices on transported hazardous substances.

## **Section**

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines terms for the section, including identifying all classes of railroad carriers as subject to the requirements in the section.

**Subd. 2. Bridge inspection reports.** Requires railroads to provide copies of bridge inspection reports for bridges on which oil and other hazardous substances are transported. The reports must be provided to local emergency managers and city and county engineers (for bridges within their respective jurisdictions), as well as to MnDOT.

**Subd. 3. Transported substances notice.** Requires railroads to provide notice on various route scheduling, hazardous materials, and emergency response details for oil and other hazardous substances transported. The notice is required to be provided to MnDOT, with notice updates mandated prior to significant changes in the information.