

File Number: H.F. 2229
Version: As introduced

Date: March 8, 2017

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Subject: Contracting; railroads use mass transit right-of-ways

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This bill permits the Metropolitan Council or a county in the seven-county metro area to contract with a railroad to share the use of the Metropolitan Council or county's commuter rail, light rail, or freight rail tracks, facilities, or services for freight rail purposes.

The contracts between the Metropolitan Council, or the county, and the railroad can also specify the allocation of financial responsibility, indemnification, and insurance requirements for both the railroad and the municipality for claims or damages.

The railroads liability is limited to the damage caps for local units of government provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 466.04 when the railroads are operating in the municipality's rail right-of-way.

Class I railroads include large national railroads, Class II railroads are regional railroad companies, and Class III railroads are short line railroads.

This bill would be effective the day following final enactment.