

**Subject** State rail safety inspection program  
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## Overview

This bill modifies a rail inspection program administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), to:

- allow two additional positions in the program (increased to six from four under current law), including inspectors and supervisors, with railroad consultation no longer made necessary;
- broaden the scope of inspections that can be performed, to cover train equipment as well as railroad operations;
- clarify that the railroad assessment for the program is for all programmatic costs; and
- make technical and clarifying changes.

**Background.** MnDOT administers the state rail safety inspection program through a partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration in which state inspection and enforcement of federal law on rail safety and standards is authorized. Funding for the program is provided through a proportionally allocated assessment on Class I and Class II railroads in Minnesota. Revenue from the assessment goes into a state rail safety inspection account, and is statutorily appropriated to MnDOT for the rail inspection program. An increase in the permitted staffing complement for the program has the effect of increasing the assessment on the railroads (to cover increased staffing and program costs).