

Subject Inter-city passenger rail funding

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Overview

This bill, as proposed to be amended by the H0409A4 amendment, would provide for funding for inter-city passenger rail capital and operating costs, including for the Northern Light Express line between Minneapolis and Duluth.

Summary

| Section | Description |
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| 1 | Passenger rail; funding. |
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Establishes a passenger rail account in the special revenue fund. Directs annual transfers from the general fund into the account in amounts that match 50 percent of railroad property tax revenue collected in the prior calendar year. Creates a statutory appropriation of the money in the account to MnDOT for inter-city passenger rail operating costs (after accounting for fare revenue, federal funds, and other sources). Sets a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027.

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| 2 | Appropriation; Northern Lights Express; inter-city passenger rail. |
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Makes appropriations for inter-city passenger rail.

Paragraph (a) appropriates a total of \$194,300,000 from the general fund to MnDOT for:

- Northern Lights Express (NLX) project capital costs;
- a joint station that provides for service on both NLX and the Amtrak line between the Twin Cities area, Milwaukee, and Chicago (known as TCMC); and
- rolling stock acquisition as part of joining a midwest fleet pool.

The appropriation is made available until June 30, 2028.

Paragraph (b) appropriates \$488,000 in each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025 from the general fund to MnDOT for inter-city passenger rail administration, and increases the annual base accordingly.



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