

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 388 (H.F. 2801)

SESSION: 2010 Regular Session

TOPIC: Transportation finance provisions

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Overview

This act makes changes in transportation finance related to: establishing a new special plate for remembering victims of impaired drivers; authorizing \$100 million in additional trunk highway bonds; and appropriating funds for expanding a Vehicle Crimes Unit in the State Patrol to investigation tax compliance and vehicle crimes.

Section

Article 1: License Plates

- 1** [168.121] **Special plates remembering victims of impaired drivers.** Establishes a new special plate for remembrance of impaired driver victims, including provisions on requirements for obtaining the plate, plate design, plate transfer, recordkeeping, and deposit of funds. The section is effective August 1, 2013.
- 2** **Definition.** Adds the new special plate to a provision on uniform plate design.
- 3** **Uniform design of special plates.** Adds the new special plate to a provision on uniform plate design.

Article 2: Road Construction

Overview

This article authorizes an additional \$100 million in trunk highway bonding, effective May 28, 2010.

- 1 **State road construction; appropriation.** Appropriates \$30 million in trunk highway bonds for trunk highway construction.
- 2 **Interchange account appropriation.** Appropriates \$70 million in trunk highway bonds for fiscal year 2011, to fund trunk highway interchange projects that promote economic development, relieve congestion, and promote traffic safety. Allocates funds to go 50 percent to the metropolitan area and 50 percent to greater Minnesota.
- 3 **Bond sale expenses.** Appropriates \$100,000 for bond sale expenses related to the new trunk highway bonds in the act.
- 4 **Trunk highway bonds authorization.** Authorizes the sale of trunk highway bonds to fund the new bond appropriations in the act.
- 5 **Effective date.** Makes the article effective May 28, 2010.

Article 3: Transportation Tax Compliance

Overview

This article provides funding for investigation of nonpayment of motor vehicle taxes and other vehicle crimes. In total, starting in fiscal year 2012 additional tax revenue resulting from the unit's investigations is expected to surpass appropriations for the unit. The article goes into effect July 1, 2010.

- 1 **Summary of appropriations.** Amends the fiscal years 2010-2011 transportation budget summary of appropriations by fund.
- 2 **Total appropriation.** Amends the total and summary of appropriations by fund for the Department of Public Safety.
- 3 **State Patrol.** Adjusts appropriations to the State Patrol, expands a Vehicle Crimes Unit to investigate unpaid motor vehicle taxes and other motor vehicle crimes, and requires an electronically submitted legislative report in 2015 on additional revenues resulting from the unit's work.

Funding for the unit is provided in fiscal year 2011 by reducing the State Patrol appropriation from the trunk highway fund by \$191,000 and appropriating \$191,000 to the new unit (within the State Patrol), allocated:

- \$179,000 from the highway user tax distribution fund; and
- \$50,000 from the general fund.

The base appropriation for each of fiscal years 2012 and 2013 totals \$693,000 from the highway user tax distribution fund.

- 4 **Driver and Vehicle Services.** Appropriates an additional \$50,000 in fiscal year 2011 to Driver and Vehicle Services to assist the Vehicle Crimes Unit in its investigations (which constitutes an increase in the agency's base appropriation).