

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill contains various provisions relating to the department of transportation and other road authorities, including greater flexibility in departmental audits and inspections of motor carriers, and incorporation by reference of federal regulations on commercial vehicle driver drug and alcohol testing. It also limits local authority in the metropolitan area to establish loading zones on state-aid routes, prohibits state and local action to plan or build the Dan Patch commuter rail line between Minneapolis and Northfield, and repeals the 2001 law prohibiting certain state and local actions that may limit the flow of Camp Coldwater Springs.

Section

- 1 **Motor carrier inspections and audits.** Allows the department of transportation to reduce the number of vehicle inspections and record audits of a motor carrier if the department has sufficient information from federal and state safety data about the carrier's operations to determine that the carrier has an effective safety management program. Under present law a carrier must be audited and inspected annually.
- 2 **Federal waiver for motor carrier drivers.** Provides that a state motor carrier driver qualification waiver is not required for Minnesota intrastate commerce if a driver holds a valid federal interstate waiver from driver physical qualifications.
- 434 **Shipper registration exemption.** Provides that a carrier registered with MnDOT as a hazardous materials carrier who only offers designated hazardous materials for shipment only in the carriers own vehicles and does not offer hazardous materials to other carriers is not required to also register with MnDOT as a shipper of hazardous materials.
- 5 **Enforcement of federal regulations on drug and alcohol testing.** Gives MnDOT transportation program specialists and hazardous material program specialists peace officer authority to enforce federal regulations on commercial vehicle drug and alcohol testing.
- 6 **Drug and alcohol testing records.** Includes federal commercial vehicle drug and alcohol

testing regulations in the list of federal regulations for which records and other papers must be kept and made available for inspection.

7 **Motor carrier regulation compliance.** Includes federal regulations on commercial vehicle drug and alcohol testing and financial responsibility in the list of federal regulations with which interstate carriers and private carriers in interstate commerce must comply.

8 **District 1 construction budget.** Reduces from \$35 million to \$24.7 million the amount by which the MnDOT district 1 (Duluth) trunk highway construction program must be reduced over the period 2003-2007 to repay advances to this budget in 2001 and 2002. Specifies that the reduction must be made at approximately \$5 million per year until full repayment is made.

9 **Limitation on land use variances.** Prohibits a city in the metropolitan area from granting a variance from zoning or other land use controls, or otherwise approving any land use, to allow the establishment of a loading zone on the right-of-way or easement of a state-aid street or highway on behalf of a housing or other project receiving a building permit after December 31, 2001.

10 **Dan Patch commuter rail line.** Prohibits the metropolitan council, the department of transportation, and regional rail authorities from spending any money on or planning, designing, or constructing the Dan Patch commuter rail line between Northfield and Minneapolis. Requires removal of the project, except historical references, from MnDOT and metropolitan council plans.

11 **Repealer.** Repeals the law that adopts by reference federal regulations on commercial vehicle drug and alcohol testing.

Repeals the 2001 prohibition against any state or regional agency or local government taking action that may diminish the flow of water to or from Cap Coldwater Springs. This repeal would be effective immediately.