

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Authors:** Osterman and others

**Subject:** Leasing of rest areas

**Analyst:** John Williams, 651-296-5045

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Requires MnDOT to solicit proposals for lease or operation and maintenance of each trunk highway rest area by private entities. Requires leases to be negotiated by July 1, 2004. Allows leases and contracts to authorize commercial activities in rest areas. Requires contracts and leases to require lessees or contractors to provide public services, including restrooms, for a minimum number of hours per days.

Requires MnDOT to negotiate with the federal highway administration to determine a list of commercial activities allowed and disallowed in rest areas on the national highway system.

Allows MnDOT to provide minimum bids for adequate compensation based on location, size, traffic, facilities, revenue generation potential, and other relevant factors. Requires leases to provide for regular lease payments, including payments constituting a percentage of revenue, for deposit in the trunk highway fund, and, if applicable, payment of sales tax for deposit in the general fund. Allows MnDOT to decline to lease or contract for a rest area if no bids have been received that would adequately compensate the state or provide adequate public services.

Requires MnDOT to continue for five years any existing vendor-vendee, lessor-lessee, or contract relationship, if the rest area operator complies with terms of the contract.

Prohibits MnDOT from taking any action that would result in loss of federal funds to the state or repayment of highway funds to the federal government.