

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2210

DATE: March 2, 2004

Version: First engrossment

Authors: Erhardt and others

Subject: Road user fee task force

Analyst: John Williams, 651-296-5045

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Establishes a Road User Fee Task Force to study the future of highway funding and alternatives to existing highway user tax mechanisms.

Provides that the task force consists of:

- commissioner of transportation or a designee
- commissioner of public safety or a designee
- commissioner of revenue or a designee
- six members appointed by the governor, including (1) a representative of motor carriers, (2) a representative of a transportation organization with public and private members, (3) a representative of an association of high-technology companies, (4) a representative of the University of Minnesota center for transportation studies, and (5) two other members
- county board member, appointed by the governor
- elected city official appointed by the governor
- elected township official appointed by the governor
- three members of the senate appointed by the senate subcommittee on committees, including a minority member and the chair of the transportation policy committee

- three members of the house appointed by the speaker, including a minority member and the chair of the transportation policy committee

Provides that members may be removed in the same manner as other advisory committees. Requires the task force to select its own chair. Provides for compensation of members as for other state advisory boards. Directs the Department of Transportation to provide staff, administrative support, and funding.

Directs the task force to study:

- adequacy of existing highway user tax mechanisms to fund present and future needs
- alternative systems that tie highway user collections directly to road usage, including (i) technology for such systems, vehicle identification capability, ability to report mileage and collect tax based on mileage, and suitability for pilot projects, (ii) revenue potential compared to present systems, (iii) public acceptance, (iv) implementation and administration costs, (v) potential for tax evasion, (vi) tax equity issues, and (vii) compatibility with tax systems of other states

Requires the task force to review available literature. Provides that task force meetings are open to the public. Requires a report by January 15, 2007, to the legislature.

The act would be effective July 1, 2004, and expires December 31, 2006.