

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 3792

**DATE:** March 17, 2008

**Version:** First engrossment

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**Subject:** Commuter rail authority

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### Overview

This bill gives authority to the Metropolitan Council to operate commuter rail lines that run from greater Minnesota into the metropolitan area, and establishes various powers and duties related to the commuter rail service.

#### Section

- 1 Commuter rail; commissioner's duties; contracts; liabilities, rights, and financial considerations.** Establishes that the Department of Transportation has the authority to plan, design, and construct commuter rail under the current law commuter rail provisions in the Minnesota Statutes chapter on the Department of Transportation. Cross references the Metropolitan Council's authority, established in section 2.
- 2 Commuter rail operation and maintenance.** This section establishes various authorities and duties of the Metropolitan Council and the Department of Transportation related to commuter rail service that extends into the seven-county metropolitan area.

**Subd. 1. General.** Requires that the Metropolitan Council operate and maintain any commuter rail line that extends into the metropolitan area, once planning and construction are complete.

**Subd. 2. Commuter rail equipment, supplies, and materials.** Authorizes the Metropolitan Council to obtain commuter rail equipment and supplies. The line does

## Section

not have to first be in service.

**Subd. 3. Commuter rail improvements.** Authorizes the Metropolitan Council to plan, design, construct, and provide equipment for any improvements to an existing commuter rail line over which the Metropolitan Council has authority.

**Subd. 4. Procurement for commuter rail; best value alternative.** Allows the Metropolitan Council to use a “best value” method for awarding procurement contracts.

**Subd. 5. Transfer of property and use rights.** Requires that the Department of Transportation transfer ownership or provide access rights to the Metropolitan Council for any commuter rail facility that the Metropolitan Council is required to operate and maintain.

**Subd. 6. Agreements with other parties.** Allows the Metropolitan Council to enter into agreements with political subdivisions or private entities related to commuter rail operation and maintenance.

**Subd. 7. Expenditure of funds and exercise of powers.** Extends powers, including expenditure of funds, that exist under current law concerning the Metropolitan Council and the Metropolitan Transit Police, so that they apply outside of the metropolitan area when carrying out the council’s commuter rail responsibilities under this section.

**Subd. 8. Application of section 174.82.** Extends a provision authorizing contracting with class I railroads and providing certain liability protections to the railroad, so that they also apply to contacts made by the Metropolitan Council.

**Subd. 9. Rights of employees.** Provides that a contract entered into under this section does not affect the rights of employees under the Federal Employers Liability Act or the Railway Labor Act.

**Effective date.** Effective the day after enactment and applies in the seven metropolitan counties.