HOUSE RESEARCH =

Bill Summary =

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Authors: Champion

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Analyst: Matt Burress, 651-296-5045

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Overview

This bill establishes provisions designed to assist businesses with the adverse impacts from road construction work, through a grant program, construction signage, and a business liaison.

Section

- Construction mitigation grant program. Establishes a Department of Employment and Economic Development grant program for small businesses affected by transportation construction projects.
 - **Subd. 1. Purpose.** Provides for legislative purpose. Requires the Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and local units of government to coordinate on implementing as part of the program recommendations from a 2009 MnDOT report on mitigating highway construction impacts on small businesses.
 - **Subd. 2. Establishment.** Creates the grant program, administered by the Department of Employment and Economic Development, to provide grants to local units of government for small businesses affected by transportation construction projects.
 - Subd. 3. Definitions. Defines terms.
 - **Subd. 4. Applications.** Requires applicants to submit a grant proposal on their construction mitigation plans and strategies, including identification of available nonstate funding.
 - **Subd. 5. Fund distribution.** Requires balancing grants between the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Greater Minnesota.
- 2 Business signs. Requires MnDOT, counties, cities, and towns to consult with businesses

- affected by construction projects and plan signage so that the adverse effects of road construction are minimized.
- Mitigation of transportation construction impacts on business. Requires appointment of a liaison between a road authority doing road work on a street or highway or for a transit improvement and businesses next to the construction or affected by access or parking issues related to the construction. The liaison must provide information to businesses on the status of the construction project.
- 4 Funding; appropriation.
 - **Subd. 1. Funding.** Requires that the Department of Employment and Economic Development identify and use federal stimulus funds if available for the construction mitigation grant program.
 - **Subd. 2. Appropriation.** Appropriates an amount to be filled in from the general fund to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for the grant program, which is only available if federal funds are not obtained. The appropriation is available until expended.