

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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This bill restricts state agencies (including the Metropolitan Council) from obtaining federal aid for, or entering into agreements related to, a commuter rail, passenger rail, or light rail transit line, unless certain road-related performance targets are met. It places the same restrictions on local units of government (such as counties, the Counties Transit Improvement Board, and regional railroad authorities) if any state sources of funds are identified or expected for the rail line. The prohibitions extend to federal assistance on all phases of a rail project (including planning, engineering, environmental analysis, land acquisition, construction, and operations).

Performance measures that must be met prior to accepting federal funds or entering into federal agreements are as established by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) under its transportation plans, and relate to roadways in the areas of road safety, preservation, maintenance, mobility, and project accountability.

The bill establishes a certification process whereby MnDOT identifies certifies performance measurement scores to the legislature and federal rail assistance is permitted, if certified, for a period consisting of the following single fiscal year.