

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 238

SESSION: 1999 Regular Session

TOPIC: Omnibus transportation appropriations bill

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Overview

This bill appropriates money to the department of transportation and for transportation-related functions in the department of public safety. It also appropriates state assistance to the metropolitan council for metropolitan transit operations.

The bill also contains the following provisions:

A requirement that MnDOT establish a rail corridor improvement plan in southern Minnesota

A system where sellers of motor vehicles would mail in a form detached from the certificate of title to notify the department of public safety of the sale

New limitations and enforcement provisions on the parking of vehicles with disabled plates and certificates

Authorization for the department of public safety to sell advertising in the driver's manual and other publications

Reduced fee for Minnesota ID cards issued to persons with mental illness

New registration category for antique aircraft

Economic deregulation of motor carriers of passengers

Authorization for red and white rear lights on delivery vehicles

Study of Amtrak service between the Twin Cities and Iron Range

Section

FY00 FY01
(\$ in thousands)

Article 1

Transportation Appropriations

1	Total appropriation. In this summary "one-time appropriation" means an appropriation that is not added to the agency's budget base for 2002-03 or future bienniums. All totals reflect line-item vetoes by the governor, so that the totals in the summary are not necessarily those that appear in the enrolled act.	1,633,640	1,643,991
	Summary by fund:		
	General fund	85,231	80,853
	State airports fund	19,386	19,469
	County state-aid highway fund	365,063	366,624
	Highway user tax distribution fund	15,480	15,575
	Municipal state-aid street fund	105,549	107,394
	Special revenue fund	947	965
	Trunk highway fund	1,041,984	1,053,111
2	Transportation. Appropriations are from the trunk highway fund except where noted.		
	Subd. 1. Total appropriation.	1,465,751	1,479,072
	Summary by fund:		
	General fund	16,515	16,385
	State airports fund	19,336	19,419
	County state-aid highway fund	365,063	366,624
	Municipal state-aid street fund	105,549	107,394
	Trunk highway fund	959,288	969,250
	Subd. 2. Aeronautics	19,327	19,410
	Summary by fund:		
	State airports fund	19,266	19,349
	General fund	50	50
	Trunk highway	11	11
	(a) Airport development and assistance	13,948	13,948
	Navigation aids, construction and maintenance grants	12,846	12,846
	(b) Aviation support	5,247	5,329
	Civil air patrol	65	65
	(c) Air transportation service	132	133
	Summary by fund:		
	General	50	50
	State airports	71	72
	Trunk highway	11	11

Subd. 3. Greater Minnesota transit.	16,206	16,224
Summary by fund:		
General fund	15,882	15,892
Trunk highway fund	324	332
(a) Greater Minnesota transit assistance	15,406	15,406
From the general fund. Allows carryover from the first to second year. Specifies that \$405,000 each year is one-time appropriation.		
(b) Transit administration.	800	818
Summary by fund:		
General fund	476	486
Trunk highway fund	324	332
Subd. 4. Railroads and waterways.	1,623	1,565
Summary by fund:		
General fund	359	266
Trunk highway fund	1,264	1,299
Development of southern Minnesota rail corridor improvement plan under section 32, from the general fund. One-time appropriation.	100	
Subd. 5. Motor carrier regulation.	2,851	2,865
Summary by fund:		
General fund	116	119
Trunk highway fund	2,735	2,746
Administration of passenger carrier deregulation, from the trunk highway fund.	301	249
Subd. 6. Local roads.	470,612	474,018
Summary by fund:		
County state-aid	365,063	366,624
Municipal state-aid	105,549	107,394
(a) County state-aids (from CSA fund)	365,063	366,624
(b) Municipal state-aids (from MSA fund)	105,549	107,394
Allows unanticipated revenue from highway user taxes to these funds to be added to the above appropriation.		
Directs MnDOT to study the effects on local bridge needs of adding additional types of projects to the projects that are eligible for state grants for local bridges.		
Subd. 7. State roads	912,625	923,769
Summary by fund:		
General fund	59	9
Trunk highway fund	912,566	923,760
(a) State road construction.	516,684	521,707
Allows the department to transfer up to \$15,000,000 of this appropriation each year to the trunk highway revolving loan		

account in the transportation revolving loan fund.		
(b) Debt service	13,949	13,175
Transfer to state bond fund for trunk highway bond repayment.	3,949	3,175
(c) Research and investment management.	12,450	12,597
Planning grants to regional development commissions, joint powers boards in regions with no RDC, and MnDOT districts in regions with no RDC or joint-powers board, outside the Twin Cities metro area.	600	600
Planning grants to metropolitan planning organizations outside the Twin Cities area.	216	216
Transportation planning related to 2000 census. One-time appropriation.	75	25
Transportation research contingent accounts, for research costs reimbursable from other sources.	75	75
(d) Central engineering services	68,563	70,940
(e) Design and construction engineering.	80,592	83,246
Transportation planning related to 2000 census. One-time appropriation.	1,000	500
(f) State road operations	211,703	213,561
Metro freeway operations enhancements	1,000	1,000
Maintenance services	1,000	1,000
Hiring of additional maintenance and program delivery personnel, contingent on reaching an agreement with bargaining units by October 1, 1999	3,000	3,000
<i>This appropriation was vetoed by the governor.</i>		
Improved highway striping	3,000	1,000
Safety technology applications	500	500
Statewide asset preservation and repair	150	150
Implementation of "transportation worker" concept in MnDOT workforce	750	750

Requires the department to create a task force to study seasonal road restrictions (restrictions on gross weight and axle weight that are imposed during parts of the year to protect roadbeds). Requires the task force to include representatives of aggregate and ready-mix producers, solid and liquid waste haulers, logging, construction, and farming. Requires a report to the legislature by February 1, 2000.

(g) Electronic communications.	5,684	5,543
Summary by fund:		
General fund	59	9
Trunk highway fund	5,625	5,534
Lake of the Woods weather broadcasting, from the general fund.	9	9
Equipment for the public safety radio system in the metropolitan area, from the general fund.	50	
From the trunk highway fund for costs resulting from termination	200	

of agreements with commercial wireless service operators under article 2, sections 31 and 89. Available until spent.

Requires the department to request the department of administration each year to request bids for purchase of digital mobile and portable radios for the metro public safety radio system.

Subd. 8. General support. 41,731 40,446

Summary by fund:

General fund 49 49

State airports fund 70 70

Trunk highway fund 41,612 40,327

(a) General management 28,523 29,181

Requires the department to implement at the earliest feasible date its technical memorandum that outlines the process by which highway plans, specifications, and estimates will be converted to the English system of measurement. Requires a report to the legislative committees on transportation policy and finance on the status and schedule for conversion to the English system.

(b) General services 13,208 11,265

Summary by fund:

General fund 49 49

State airports fund 70 70

Trunk highway fund 13,089 11,146

Implementation of plan for shared information resources. 2,500 500

Subd. 9. Buildings 3,776 3,775

Subd. 10. Transfers.

Allows the commissioner, with finance department approval, to transfer unencumbered balances among appropriations from the trunk highway fund and state airports fund. Requires reports to legislative finance committees.

Transfers from the flexible account in the county state-aid highway fund:

To municipal turnback account 4,400 4,500

To trunk highway fund 5,000

Directs the remainder of the flexible account each year to the county turnback account.

Subd. 11. Previous appropriations

Allows money appropriated to the department in previous years for state road construction to be used in the 2000-01 biennium to the extent that it will be used on the construction project for which it was originally encumbered.

Subd. 12. Contingent appropriations.

Allows MnDOT, with governor's approval after consultation with legislative advisory commission, to transfer unappropriated balances in the trunk highway fund for trunk highway construction, emergency

maintenance, and tort and environmental claims.

3	Metropolitan council transit. From the general fund. Limits metro mobility to \$38,100,000 for the biennium, except for proceeds from bond sales.	56,801	53,101
4	Public safety. Appropriations are from the general fund except where noted.		
	Subd. 1. Total appropriation.	110,046	110,776
	Summary by fund:		
	General fund	11,915	11,367
	Special revenue fund	947	965
	Trunk highway fund	81,829	82,994
	Highway user tax distribution fund	15,355	15,450
	Subd. 2. Administration.	12,740	12,976
	Summary by fund:		
	General fund	4,478	4,555
	Trunk highway fund	6,877	7,036
	Highway user tax distribution fund	1,385	1,385
	(a) Office of communications	374	382
	Summary by fund:		
	General fund	20	20
	Trunk highway fund	354	362
	(b) Public safety support	7,653	7,811
	Summary by fund:		
	General fund	3,014	3,085
	Trunk highway fund	3,273	3,360
	Highway user tax distribution fund	1,366	1,366
	Payment of public safety officer survivor benefits. Allows transfers between fiscal years.	326	326
	Transfer to public safety officer's benefit account for health benefits	244	314
	Soft body armor reimbursements, to reimburse peace officers for part of the cost of purchasing soft body armor.	508	508
	Transfer from general fund to trunk highway fund, to reimburse trunk highway fund for public safety administrative expenses not related to trunk highways.	1,830	1,830
	Transfer from highway user tax distribution fund to trunk highway fund, to reimburse trunk highway fund for HUTDF purposes in public safety administration.	610	610
	Transfer from highway user tax distribution fund to general fund, to reimburse general fund for costs related to criminal justice data network related to driver and vehicle services.	716	716
	(c) Technical support services	4,713	4,783
	Summary by fund:		

General fund	1,444	1,450
Trunk highway fund	3,250	3,314
Highway user tax distribution fund	19	19
Subd. 3. State patrol.	57,378	57,311
Summary by fund:		
General fund	3,499	2,675
Trunk highway fund	53,788	54,544
Highway user tax distribution fund	91	92
(a) Patrolling highways	47,028	46,804
Summary by fund:		
General fund	835	0
Trunk highway fund	46,193	46,804
Replacement of state patrol helicopter, from the general fund. One-time appropriation.	835	
Hiring of trooper candidates and operation of state patrol academy. One-time appropriation.	735	
(b) Commercial vehicle enforcement, from the trunk highway fund.	6,013	6,177
(c) Capitol security, from the general fund	2,627	2,638
Personnel for protection of elected state officials	275	217
(d) State patrol support	1,710	1,752
Summary by fund:		
General fund	37	37
Trunk highway fund	1,582	1,623
Highway user tax distribution fund	91	92
Subd. 4. Driver and vehicle services.	38,677	39,214
Summary by fund:		
General fund	3,938	4,137
Trunk highway fund	20,860	21,104
Highway user tax distribution fund	13,879	13,973
(a) Vehicle registration and title	15,269	15,510
Summary by fund:		
General fund	3,291	3,473
Highway user tax distribution fund	11,978	12,037
Purchase of optical scanner for vehicle registration documents, from the highway user tax distribution fund. One-time appropriation.	45	
Increased license plate costs, from the highway user tax distribution fund.	548	415
Computer programming for disabled parking records management and enforcement, from the highway user tax distribution fund. One-time appropriation.	98	
Implementation of the vehicle transfer reporting system	33	127

	("postcard") under article 2, sections 10 and 11, from the general fund		
	(b) Interstate registration and reciprocity, from the highway user tax distribution fund	1,584	1,613
	(c) Licensing drivers	21,176	21,429
	Summary by fund:		
	General fund	635	652
	Trunk highway fund	20,464	20,699
	Highway user tax distribution fund	77	78
	Improved driver testing services, from the trunk highway fund.	1,095	800
	(d) Driver and vehicle services support	648	662
	Summary by fund:		
	General fund	12	12
	Trunk highway fund	396	405
	Highway user tax distribution fund	240	245
	Subd. 5. Traffic safety.	304	310
	From the trunk highway fund		
	Subd. 6. Pipeline safety. From the pipeline safety account in the special revenue fund.	947	965
5	Minnesota safety council.	67	67
	From the trunk highway fund.		
6	General contingent accounts. Expenditure requires approval of the governor after consultation with legislative advisory commission.	375	375
	Summary by fund:		
	Trunk highway fund	200	200
	Highway user tax distribution fund	125	125
	State airports fund	50	50
7	Tort claims. To the commissioner of finance, from the trunk highway fund.	600	600
8	1997 appropriation for radio system. Amends the appropriation for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 to MnDOT for the 800 MHZ radio system, to allow the appropriation to remain available until spent.		
9	1997 appropriation for patrol training. Amends the appropriation for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 to the state patrol for a trooper training academy to allow the appropriation to be available until spent, and to delete the reference to the academy beginning operations in January, 1999.		

Article 2
Transportation Development

Section

- 1** **Motorcycle safety account.** Makes permanent the provision of law that limits expenditures from the motorcycle safety fund for motorcycle instructor training and school reimbursements to not more than 65 percent of all expenditures from the fund in any year. Under present law this percentage would drop to 60 percent beginning in fiscal year 2000.
Repeals expired language relating to expenditures from the motorcycle safety fund for

administrative purposes.

(The motorcycle safety fund is funded by \$11 from each fee for a new motorcycle endorsement on a driver's license and \$7 of the endorsement fee for each renewal. Money in the fund is annually appropriated to the department of public safety, but that department may make grants from the fund to the department of children, families, and learning. The fund is used for (1) training and coordination of motorcycle safety instructors, (2) reimbursing school districts for up to half their costs of offering motorcycle safety courses, and (3) motorcycle safety promotion and public education. This section affects the maximum percentage of the fund that may be spent for items (1) and (2).)

- 2 **Limousine definition.** Amends the definition of "limousine" in motor vehicle registration law for consistency with the definition in motor carrier law.
- 3 **Commercial driving school vehicle registration tax exemption.** Exempts from vehicle registration taxes vehicles owned by a commercial driving school and used solely in driver education.
- 4 **Prorated fees.** Provides that the registration tax on a vehicle that becomes subject to taxation on transfer from a vehicle dealer is for the remainder of the registration period, prorated at the rate of 1/12 of the tax for each month remaining. This section and section 5 take effect July 1, 2001.
- 5 **Listing by dealers.** Deletes the requirement that a dealer who takes possession of a vehicle may withhold the license tax only if the vehicle transfer is filed with the department of public safety before the current year's registration expires. Provides that when the dealer sells the vehicle the tax due is for the remainder of the year, prorated on a monthly basis.
- 6 **Registration tax for vehicles with disabled license plates.** Repeals the provision that reduces the registration tax by \$1 for each month of registration for motor vehicles bearing disabled license plates.
- 0 **Suspension of registration.** Allows registration of a motor vehicle to be suspended, modified, revoked, or amended if a person to whom the vehicle has been transferred fails to apply for a new certificate of title within 30 days of the sale. This section and sections 8 to 14 are effective July 1, 2000.
- 1 **Late fee.** Reduces from 14 to 10 days the period during which a vehicle seller must transfer title to the buyer without incurring a \$2 late fee.
- 2 **Reinstatement fee.** Changes the time limit for registration to reflect the 30-day requirement in section 7. Increases the fee for a reinstatement of a suspended registration from \$5 to \$10.
- 3 **Detachable form.** Requires a vehicle certificate of title to contain a form that may be detached from the title, containing vehicle identification information, information identifying the vehicle's buyer, the purchase price, and the date of sale.
- 4 **Notice of sale.** Requires a person who sells a vehicle to complete the form required under section 17 to send the form to the department of public safety within ten days of the sale. Allows the seller to transmit this information to the department electronically in a form the department approves.
- 5 **Application for new certificate.** Provides that failure of a person to whom a vehicle has been transferred to apply for a new certificate of title results in suspension of the vehicle's registration.
- 6 **Liability.** Amends the law that exempts a seller of a vehicle from liability for the vehicle's use after the sale if the owner has reported the transfer to the department, by providing that the liability exemption applies even if the owner has not returned the detachable form.
- 7 **Violation.** Amends the law that makes it a misdemeanor to fail to notify the department of

transfers of title by exempting the notice of sale requirement in section 11.

- 8 Open bottle law.** Amends the open bottle law to delete a reference to charter carriers (a type of motor passenger carrier permit that is eliminated in this bill) make the exemption previously given to charter carriers from the open bottle law apply to all motor carriers of passengers.
- 9 Parking for benefit of disabled person.** Specifies that the parking privileges extended to a vehicle with a disability certificate or license plates apply when the vehicle is parked by another person only when it is parked solely for the benefit of the disabled person. Provides that a person may park a vehicle for a disabled person at a disabled space or metered space only when actually transporting a disabled person for that person's sole benefit, and when the parking space is within a reasonable distance from the drop-off point.
- Allows vehicles with disabled plates or certificates to park at unmetered spaces that have time limitations (other than rush-hour parking bans) without being subject to those time limitations, unless the exercise of the privilege is specifically prohibited in that space. Under present law the disabled exemption from parking time limitations applies only at metered spaces.
- 10 Certificate.** Provides that a vehicle displaying a disability certificate has parking privileges only while the vehicle is actually in use for transporting a disabled person.
- Provides that when the department of public safety issues commercial disabled certificates to an organization, the department must require documentation from each organization that the organization has adequate controls to prevent abuse of the certificate.
- Prohibits the department from issuing more than three replacement certificates in a six-year period unless issuance has been approved by the council on disability.
- 11 Unauthorized use.** Allows a parking enforcement officer to report a violation of disabled parking privileges to the department of public safety. Under present law the department may revoke a certificate for a violation.
- 12 Enforcement.** Allows parking enforcement officers to issue citations for a violation of disabled parking privileges.
- Provides that if a holder of a disability certificate or plates allows an otherwise ineligible person to use the certificate or plates, the holder may not use the certificate or plates or be issued a certificate or plates for one year after the violation.
- 13 Local ordinances.** Allows cities to enact an ordinance establishing a permit program for long-term parking.
- 21 White lights on delivery vehicles.** Allows a vehicle making deliveries to residences to have a white light to the rear, from a top-mounted sign, if the sign projects other colors to the rear. This section is effective immediately and is repealed on July 31, 2000.
- 22 Red lights on delivery vehicles.** Allows a vehicle making deliveries to residences to have a red light to the rear, from a top-mounted sign, if the sign projects other colors to the rear. This section is effective immediately and is repealed on July 31, 2000.
- 23 Minimum period for possession of instruction permit.** Requires a person applying for a driver's license who is age 19 or older to have had an instruction permit for at least three months.
- 24 Minimum period for possession of instruction permit.** Makes technical changes to incorporate the change in section 23.
- 25 Home-school driver education.** Provides that a person under age 18 who has completed driver education a certified home-school, with classroom materials approved by the department of public safety, and who is enrolled in an approved behind-the-wheel driver education program, is eligible for an instruction permit.
- 26 Driver's license agents.** Requires the department of public safety to provide a camera for

driver's license photos, at the department's expense, to a newly-appointed driver's license agent who replaces an existing agent who has died, retired, resigned, or who has discontinued license services. Imposes this requirement only if the department had provided a camera to that office before 1999. Under present law such an agent would have to pay for the camera.

- 27 ID card fees for persons with mental illness.** Sets a fee of 50 cents for a state-issued identification card for a person who meets the definition of a "person with serious and persistent mental illness" in the adult mental health act. The regular fee for a state-issued identification card is \$12.50.
- 28 Home schools.** Exempts home schools from the licensing requirements for driver training schools.
- 29 Directional signs.** Adopts the federal definition of "public authorities" within the statutory definition of "directional signs." This has the effect of allowing directional signs to public places operated by Indian tribes to be placed adjacent to highway right of way.
- 30 Large urbanized transit service.** Reduces from 55 to 50 percent the required local match for public transit operating assistance outside the metropolitan area. Duluth is the only large urbanized area in the program. This section takes effect July 1, 2001.
- 31 Public safety radio system agreements.** Allows the department of transportation to obtain sites by purchase, lease, gift, exchange, or other means for erection of towers and location of other equipment for the public safety radio system in the metropolitan area. Allows the department to make agreements with commercial wireless service providers to install their equipment on state-owned structures. Allows the department to charge a fee for this use, or in lieu of a fee to make agreements to use privately-owned towers for state equipment. Requires such fees to be deposited in the trunk highway fund and appropriates the fees back to the department for costs of the radio system.
- 32 Technical.** Deletes references to repealed sections in the law governing motor carriers.
- 33 Certificates.** Deletes reference to certificates of public convenience and necessity in motor carrier law.
- 34 Corridor improvement plan.** Requires the department of transportation to develop a corridor improvement plan for grade crossings on the railway corridor that runs through Winona, Olmsted, Dodge, Steele, Waseca, Blue Earth, Brown, Redwood, Lyon and Lincoln counties.
- Subd. 1. Plan development.** Requires development of the plan.
- Subd. 2. Recommendations for improvements.** Requires the plan to include crossing-by-crossing assessments to identify improvements needed at crossings with moderate levels of exposure. Requires the plan to identify all crossings that are candidates for grade separation at crossings that have a specified level of exposure of vehicles to trains, or that meet criteria in department rules.
- Requires the plan to include a strategy that identifies safety improvements in cities that have multiple candidates for grade crossing separation. Requires the strategy to consider optimal locations for separations, crossing consolidations, and other safety improvements and traffic routing options.
- Requires the department to consider crossings that are candidates for closing.
- Requires the department to review community plans developed by local governments and railroads, for compliance with the department's criteria for crossing improvements.
- Provides that agreed-to plans take precedence over elements in the corridor plan.
- Subd. 3. Review.** Requires the department to give railroads and local governments opportunities to participate in the plan development, and to allow local government review of

the plan before the department (1) executes an agreement with an affected railroad company on an improvement in the plan, and (2) forwarding plan recommendations to the federal surface transportation board (STB).

Allows the department to provide comment to the STB or other government body on corridor improvement projects.

Subd. 4. Final plan. Requires the department to submit the final plan to affected area transportation partnerships, railroads, and local governments. Provides that development of the plan does not bind the state or local governments to any implementation or funding obligations, unless otherwise provided in the plan.

- 35 **Motor carrier definition.** Amends the definition of motor carrier in motor carrier law by deleting references to operating authority. Excludes from the definition exempt carriers, building movers, and limousines.
- 36 **Certificated carrier definition.** Technical.
- 37 **Class I carrier definition.** Technical.
- 38 **Motor carrier of passengers definition.** Defines "motor carrier of passengers" as a person engaged in for-hire transportation of passengers in vehicles designed for eight or more passengers including the driver.
- 39 **Small vehicle passenger service definition.** Defines "small vehicle passenger service" as for-hire transportation of persons in vehicles designed for seven or fewer persons including the driver.
- 40 **Motor carrier registration certificates.** Authorizes MnDOT to invoke sanctions (suspension, revocation, or denial of renewal) against certificates of motor carriers for serious or repeated violations of motor carrier law. Allows administrative hearings on sanctions.
- 41 **Exemptions from regulation.** Technical.
- 42 **Exempt carriers.** Deletes the exemption from motor carrier law service that is under contract to and receiving operating assistance from MnDOT or the metropolitan council.
- 43 **Motor carriers of property.** Clarifies that the existing motor carrier registration system applies only to motor carriers of property.
- 44 **Motor carriers of passengers; registration.** Establishes a new system of registration for motor carriers of passengers. Requires those carriers to file a federal motor carrier identification report with MnDOT. Provides for issuance of state registration certificate to motor carriers of passengers. Requires annual audits and safety inspections. Provides for suspension of registration for an unsatisfactory safety rating.
- 45 **Exemptions.** Deletes references to repealed statutes.
- 46 **Powers of department.** Technical. Deletes references to abolished classes of passenger carriers.
- 47 **Private carriers.** Technical. Deletes expired language.
- 48 **Vehicle identification rule.** Exempts limousines from MnDOT's vehicle identification rules.
- 49 **Medical examiner's certificate.** Specifies that any driver for a motor carrier of passengers who holds a driver's license with a school bus endorsement is not required to have a separate health certificate. The present exemption applies only to charter drivers.
- 50 **Commissioner's orders.** Technical. Deletes references to repealed statutes.
- 51 **Penalties.** Technical.
- 52 **Local regulation.** Requires that if a city regulates small vehicle passenger service (including taxis) it must do so by an ordinance that provides for driver qualifications, insurance, vehicle

safety, and vehicle inspections. Allows a city that has enacted such an ordinance to enforce the state registration requirements for carriers.

Allows the metropolitan airports commission to regulated ground transportation other than small passenger vehicle service at MSP airport, including concession agreements. Provides that the MAC may regulate small passenger vehicle service, including taxis, only by ordinance, and may not make concession agreements for this service.

- 53 Filing requirements.** Technical. Deletes reference to repealed statute.
- 54 Initial motor carrier contact program.** Requires MnDOT's initial motor carrier contact program (an education program for new motor carriers) to include discussion of accident countermeasures.
Requires all new motor carriers to participate in the program by January 1, 2000. Allows extension of the period of time after initial registration that a carrier must participate in the program (presently 90 days).
- 55 Fee.** Provides for a \$75 per vehicle registration fee for motor carriers of passengers.
- 56 Insurance.** Requires motor carriers of passengers to carry at least as much insurance as is required of interstate passenger carriers under federal regulations. Under federal regulations these minimum coverages are \$5 million for vehicles 16 passengers or more and \$1.5 million for smaller vehicles.
- 57 Retention of records.** Technical.
- 58 Criminal background check.** Provides for criminal background checks of drivers for passenger carriers.
Subd. 1. Background check required. Requires a motor carrier of passengers to conduct an initial background check of new employees and independent contractors who drive vehicles carrying passengers. Requires a new background check every three years.
Subd. 2. Scope. Prohibits a motor carrier of passengers from using a driver to operate a passenger vehicle if the background check shows that the driver has been convicted of committing or attempting to commit murder, manslaughter, assault, kidnaping, criminal sexual conduct, first degree arson, harassment or stalking, robbery, false imprisonment, theft, burglary, or terroristic threats.
Subd. 3. Records. Requires passenger carriers to keep records of background checks.
Subd. 4. Exemption. Exempts drivers with school bus endorsements from subdivisions 1 to 3.
- 59 Suspension.** Allows for suspension of motor carrier registration in the same manner as previously applied to motor carrier authority. Deletes the maximum 45-day period for suspension. Allows suspension for failure to pay an administrative penalty.
- 60 Notice of suspension.** Technical. Deletes reference to repealed statute.
- 61 Notice of suspension; effective date.** Requires the department to issue a notice if it seeks to suspend a certificate or permit, giving the reasons for the suspension. Makes the suspension effective two days after the notice is mailed.
- 62 Suspension rescinded.** Makes provisions for rescinding suspensions inapplicable in cases where the registration has expired. Requires cancellation of registration for a carrier who has failed to comply with motor carrier requirements within one year of a suspension of registration.
- 63 Operation without registration.** Makes conforming amendments to laws governing operation without a certificate or permit.
- 64 New petition.** Technical.
- 65 Delegated powers.** Technical. Deletes references to repealed statutes.

- 66 **Operating without registration.** Technical.
- 67 **Operating without registration.** Technical. Makes the existing offense of operating as a motor carrier without a permit applies only to household goods movers. Makes the existing offense for other carriers of operating without a certificate or permit a misdemeanor apply to operating without registration.
- 68 **Gasoline used in snowmobiles.** Specifies that the percentage of gasoline tax revenues that is attributable to snowmobile use is one percent through fiscal year 2000 and .75 percent in subsequent years. Under present law this percentage of revenue is allocated to the snowmobile trails and enforcement account. Under present law the percentage would be scheduled to drop from one percent to .75 percent in fiscal 2000.
- 69 **Driver's license manual.** Allows the department of public safety to accept paid advertising in the driver's license manual. Appropriates advertising revenues back to the department to defray costs of publishing the manual and other informational materials. Prohibits political advertising.
- 70 **First year of life defined.** Defines "first year of life" for aircraft registration purposes as the first year the aircraft received a type certificate from the FAA or the year of manufacture, whichever is earlier. Under present law the first year of life is the year of model designation or, in the absence of such designation, the year of manufacture.
- 71 **Collector aircraft.** Creates two new categories of collector aircraft:
Antique aircraft, meaning an aircraft constructed by the original manufacturer or its licensee before 1946, except for specified limited-production pre-war aircraft.
Classic aircraft, meaning aircraft constructed by the original manufacturer or its licensee from 1946 through 1955, except for specified 1945-manufacture models.
- Under present law there is one category of collector's aircraft which includes aircraft built before 1940. They may be owned and operated solely as a collector's item and not be used for general or commercial transportation. The registration fee is \$25 annually, compared to the general registration tax of one percent of value.
- Requires antique or classic aircraft to have a first year of life of at least 50 years before the date of registration or re-registration.
- Replaces the current "pioneer aircraft" plates with either classic or antique plates. Allows a person who buys such an aircraft to retain and transfer the existing plates for a \$5 fee.
- 72 **Town regulation.** Amends the law that allows towns to adopt ordinances regulating taxis and car rental agencies to make the ordinances subject to the same requirements as specified in for cities in section 52.
- 73 **Unmarked vehicles.** Allows tax-exempt vehicles used by county attorneys to be issued regular license plates.
- 74 **City regulation.** Amends the law that allows statutory cities to adopt ordinances regulating taxis and car rental agencies to make the ordinances subject to the same requirements as specified in section 52.
- 75 **Proceedings before department.** Amends the law allowing the St. Cloud metropolitan transit commission to petition for rate changes by deleting obsolete references to the public utilities commission and substituting references to MnDOT. Changes a reference to the abolished federal Interstate Commerce Commission to "federal agencies."
- 76 **Metropolitan radio board report.** Requires the metropolitan radio board to report to the legislature by March 1, 2000, on the status of the 800 MHZ radio system.
- 77 **Hazardous waste.** Technical. Deletes a reference to a repealed statute.
- 78 **Metropolitan radio board sunset date.** Extends the sunset date of the metropolitan radio board

from June 30,1999, to June 30, 2002.

- 79 Transitways appropriation.** Amend the 1998 appropriation for study of the Northstar rail corridor to extend its northern terminus from St. Cloud to Little Falls.
- 80 Amtrak study.** Directs MnDOT to conduct a study of providing Amtrak passenger service from the Twin Cities to the Iron Ranges.
- 81 Taxi regulation study.** Directs the metropolitan council to study regional regulation of taxicabs. Requires a report to the legislature by February 1, 2000.
- 82 Lighting study.** Directs the department of public safety to review the law governing vehicle lighting and recommend changes. Requires a report by February 15, 2000.
- 83 Report; large urbanized transit systems.** Requests the legislative auditor to gather revenue and expenditure information on the Duluth transit authority. Directs DTA and MnDOT to submit to legislative committees a joint recommendation on local share of operating costs for DTA.
- 84 State development strategy.** Requires the office of strategic and long-range planning to develop a 20-year state development strategy. Requires the agency to submit a report to the legislature by February 15, 2000, on a proposal for preparing the state development strategy based on a prototype strategy for the I-94 corridor between the Twin Cities and St. Cloud.
- 85 Conversion of certificates.** Converts existing certificates and permits held by passenger carriers to certificates of registration under section 44.
- 86 Service at airport.** Provides that until July 1, 2000, only those motor carriers with a valid certificate, permit, or certificate of registration, or other carrier authorized by the metropolitan airports commission, may pick up passengers at MSP airports.
- 87 Utility relocation study.** Requires MnDOT to study utility relocation on trunk highways and report to the legislature by January 15, 2000.
- 88 Federal funds.** Prohibits MnDOT from taking action under section 29 (definition of directional and other official signs) if it would result in a loss of federal funds.
- 89 Agreement.** Allows MnDOT to make an agreement with a private communications company whereby the company will build a tower at the Lino Lakes correctional facility and give it to the state in return for use of state facilities for telecommunications. Exempts the agreement from certain state contract requirements.
- 90 Report on advertising revenues.** Requires the department of public safety to report to legislative committees on revenues and expenditures from sale of advertising in department publications.
- 91 Instruction to revisor.** Technical
- 92 Repealer.** Repeals laws relating to economic regulation of passenger carriers. Repeals the law establishing the metropolitan light rail joint powers board.
- 93 Effective dates.** Makes the changes in vehicle lighting effective immediately and repeals them on July 31, 2000. Makes passenger carrier regulatory provisions effective January 1, 2000. Makes the sections on detachable certificate of title forms effective July 1, 2000. Makes sections on prorated license cost to vehicle dealers, and the change in local share for large urbanized transit systems, effective July 1, 2001.