

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1918
Version: As introduced

DATE: April 1, 2009

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Subject: Passenger rail authority

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Overview

This bill establishes authority for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to undertake a variety of activities related to passenger rail, including planning and design, land acquisition, entering into agreements, and reporting.

Section

- 1** **Commissioner's duties.** Makes MnDOT responsible for planning, design, construction and other activities related to passenger rail. Authorizes MnDOT to enter into agreements related to passenger rail.
- 2** **Passenger rail funding.** Authorizes MnDOT to apply for funding from public or private sources related to passenger rail service.
- 3** **Exercise of power; passenger rail.** Vests powers as necessary to carry out MnDOT's passenger rail duties, and authorizes MnDOT to be able to use eminent domain, let contracts, and enter into agreements related to passenger rail.
- 4** **Funding.** Clarifies that a restriction on expending funds for commuter rail projects unless specifically appropriated by law does not apply to passenger rail activities.
- 5** **Passenger rail report.** Requires a legislative report by February 1, 2010, on passenger rail projects and the planning process.