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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 256

01/23/2025

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy

- 1.1A bill for an act
- 1.2relating to public safety; authorizing an action for damages for highway obstruction;
- 1.3imposing civil penalties; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,
- 1.4chapter 169.
- 1.5BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6Section 1. **[169.907] HIGHWAY OBSTRUCTION; CIVIL LIABILITY.**
- 1.7Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, "person" includes an individual,
- 1.8private entity, state agency, or political subdivision.
- 1.9Subd. 2. **Civil liability imposed.** Whoever by an act or omission intentionally interferes
- 1.10with, obstructs, or renders dangerous for passage any public highway is liable to an injured
- 1.11person for damages arising from the injuries and reasonable attorney fees and costs.
- 1.12Subd. 3. **Relationship to criminal law; election of remedy.** If an act is a violation of
- 1.13this section and section 609.74, clause (2), a state agency or political subdivision may elect
- 1.14its remedy by commencing either an action under this section or criminal prosecution under
- 1.15section 609.74, clause (2). A state agency or political subdivision may bring only one type
- 1.16of action under this subdivision and is precluded from bringing the other type of action for
- 1.17the same conduct.
- 1.18Subd. 4. **Exemption.** When carrying out duties imposed by law or contract, this section
- 1.19does not apply to the actions of law enforcement or other emergency responders, road or
- 1.20airport authorities, or utility officials or their agents, employees, or contractors.
- 1.21**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2025, and applies to causes
- 1.22of action accruing on or after that date.