



H.F. 976

First Engrossment

Subject Transportation omnibus
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Date May 1, 2020

Overview

This is the transportation policy omnibus. Unless stated otherwise, the provisions are effective August 1, 2020.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Six years. Sets owner notification requirements in order for a private road to become dedicated as a public roadway when it is continuously repaired or maintained as a public road by a unit of government for six years. Effective for repair or maintenance work that first starts on or after August 1, 2020.
2	Route No. 112. Revises the statutory description for a trunk highway route to remove the portion located in South St. Paul (known as Concord Street), which is being modified in conjunction with other changes in the bill that provide for a trunk highway turnback. The change is effective upon agreement between the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Dakota County, and the city of South St. Paul.
3	Specialist Noah Pierce Bridge. Revises the location description of a bridge memorialized in 2019 legislation as “Specialist Noah Pierce Bridge,” to establish that the bridge is on U.S. Highway 53 instead of Trunk Highway 37 in Eveleth.
4	Display of temporary permit. Modifies the location to display a temporary permit issued in conjunction with expired registration, to be where a license plate is normally displayed instead of in the rear window. Requires the permit to be plainly visible. Effective the earlier of (1) January 1, 2021, or (2) when the replacement vehicle title and registration information technology system is first deployed.

Section	Description
5	31-day temporary vehicle permit. Modifies the location to display a 31-day temporary permit (issued to nonresidents for transporting the vehicle out of state), to be affixed to the rear of the vehicle instead of in the rear window. Removes a requirement that dealers provide information on permit issuances to the Department of Public Safety. Effective the earlier of (1) January 1, 2021, or (2) when the replacement vehicle title and registration information technology system is first deployed.
6	21-day temporary vehicle permit. Modifies the location to display a 21-day temporary permit (issued for vehicle purchases), to be where a license plate is normally displayed instead of in the rear window. Requires the permit to be plainly visible. Eliminates a dealer recordkeeping requirement. Effective the earlier of (1) January 1, 2021, or (2) when the replacement vehicle title and registration information technology system is first deployed.
7	Driver to give information. Modifies information that must be provided by a driver who is involved in a motor vehicle collision involving injury or damage, so that (1) either a mailing address or an email address must be given, and (2) a driver's license does not have to be shown to other drivers or passengers.
8	Inspection certificate. Makes a conforming change.
9	Interim inspection; certificate. Allows new or used school buses being sold by a school bus dealer to be operated on public roads under an interim inspection certificate issued by the dealer, following an inspection for compliance with state law. Makes an interim inspection certificate valid until the time of the school bus owner's next annual inspection of its fleet, which is not to exceed 12 months from the month of initial inspection. Effective the day after enactment.
10	Violation; penalty. Modifies the current misdemeanor penalty for operating a school bus without an inspection certificate to (1) include interim certificates, and (2) clarify that the penalty applies to the school bus operator. Effective the day after enactment.
11	[169.812] Escort vehicles for overdimensional loads; definitions; requirements. Sets conditions when escort vehicles and escort by peace officers are required to accompany a vehicle with a load that exceeds width or length limitations. Effective the day after enactment.

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12	Autism spectrum identifier. Makes conforming and technical changes.
13	Mental health identifier. In conjunction with the previous section, creates an optional identifier to indicate on a driver's license or Minnesota identification card that the person has a mental health condition. This identifier is being split out from an identifier for autism spectrum disorder (which under current law is also available for mental health conditions).
14	Vehicle and equipment safety; provider responsibilities. Requires special transportation service (STS) provider recordkeeping on trips performed.
15	Certification of special transportation service provider. Authorizes MnDOT to refuse issuance of a certificate of compliance for an STS provider if an owner, controlling officer, or manager is not listed in the provider's active roster. (The active roster lists individuals who are determined eligible under a background check and are currently affiliated with the provider.)
16	Administrative penalties; loss of certificate of compliance. Paragraph (b) directs MnDOT to issue an order to an STS provider to cease permitting an individual to perform their job functions if the person is not on the provider's active roster. Paragraphs (d) and (e) provide for notices, suspension of a certificate of compliance, and contested cases, when a provider has not paid the annual decal fee.
17	Driver and Vehicle Systems Oversight Committee established. Provides continued nonvoting membership on the Driver and Vehicle Systems Oversight Committee for the person who served as chair of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Council on Information Technology, following dissolution of that council. Effective the day after enactment.
18	Legislative Route No. 112; partial removal. Modifies a 2019 turnback provision to provide for revising the route description in state statute instead of repealing it. In conjunction with other changes in the bill, the trunk highway route is retained in St. Paul and a turnback is authorized for the segment in South St. Paul.

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19	Licenses and identification cards. Broadens a driver’s license expiration extension recently enacted in response to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, in Laws 2020, chapter 71, to also provide an extension for licenses that would expire in the month that follows the last month of the public health emergency period declared by the governor. Effective the day after enactment.
20	Federal funds reporting requirement. Directs MnDOT, the Department of Public Safety, and the Metropolitan Council to each report to the legislature on use of federal funds received as part of response to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. Reports are due by February 15 annually until all relevant federal funds are expended. Effective the day after enactment.
21	Legislative Route No. 237 removed. Authorizes a turnback of Trunk Highway 237 from New Munich to I-94 in Stearns County, subject to agreement between MnDOT and Stearns County.
22	Requiring use of warning lights and stop arms on school buses when making deliveries to students. Directs school bus operators to use the prewarning and stop signal systems on school buses when stopping on roads to deliver food or supplies to students. Effective the day after enactment.
23	Road and bridge fund money from unorganized townships; Aitkin County. Authorizes Aitkin County to: (1) centralize road and bridge fund tax proceeds collected in the county’s unorganized townships (i.e., areas without organized town government), rather than keep separate accounts for each unorganized township; and (2) use the funds in any unorganized township. Local approval is required for the provision to be effective.
24	Repealer. Paragraph (a) repeals authorization for road authorities to set escort vehicle requirements as part of special permits for overdimensional loads. Paragraph (b) repeals an obsolete phase-in for variances from the STS operating standards for nonemergency medical transportation providers.



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