



Providing nonpartisan legal, research, and fiscal analysis services to the Minnesota Senate

S.F. No. 3975 - Roadable aircraft registration and operation (First Engrossment)

Author: Senator John R. Jasinski

Prepared by: Tim Greenfield, Senate Counsel (651/296-3801)

Date: March 26, 2024

S.F. 3975 establishes registration and operation requirements for roadable aircraft, which are capable of both operating on public roads as a motor vehicle and in the air as an aircraft.

Section 1 adds “roadable aircraft” to the definition of motor vehicle in the vehicle registration chapter of law.

Section 2 provides that, in lieu of license plates, the commissioner must issue roadable aircraft’s registration identical to its federally-issued tail number.

Section 3 establishes registration requirements for roadable aircraft as a motor vehicle in Minnesota. An owner must comply with all rules and regulations governing the registration for a motor vehicle when registering, titling, insuring, or paying taxes for a roadable aircraft.

Sections 4 and 5 clarify that a roadable aircraft is not an autocycle nor a motorcycle.

Section 6 defines “roadable aircraft” in the chapter of statutes on traffic regulations.

Section 7 exempts roadable aircraft from displaying license plates.

Section 8 sets operating and equipment requirements for roadable aircraft when operated on public roads.

Subdivision 1 defines terms, including “aircraft,” “airport,” “restricted landing area,” and “unlicensed landing area.”

Subdivision 2 provides that a roadable aircraft is considered an airplane when in the air, at an airport, an unlicensed landing area, or on a restricted landing area but is a motor vehicle when in operation everywhere else (including public roadways).

Requires an owner of a roadable aircraft comply with all flight rules when acting as an airplane (at airports, landing areas, and in flight). Limits roadable aircraft to taking off and landing at an airport, unlicensed landing area, or restricted landing area.

Section 9 defines “roadable aircraft” in the chapter of statutes on aeronautics.

Section 10 establishes a misdemeanor penalty to take off or land with an aircraft on a public road without consent of the road owner, other than in an emergency.