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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. **2536**

04/17/2021

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

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to transit; requiring contingent termination of Northstar Commuter Rail
- 1.3 and reallocation of certain funds; canceling certain appropriations.
- 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5 Section 1. **NORTHSTAR COMMUTER RAIL TERMINATION; APPROPRIATION.**
- 1.6 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have
- 1.7 the meanings given.
- 1.8 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of transportation.
- 1.9 (c) "Council" means the Metropolitan Council.
- 1.10 (d) "Northstar" means the Northstar Commuter Rail line that is operated by the council
- 1.11 to provide rail passenger service between downtown Minneapolis and Big Lake, and includes
- 1.12 any subsequent rail project or service that operates wholly or primarily in the same corridor.
- 1.13 Subd. 2. Federal waiver. The council must immediately seek a federal waiver or similar
- 1.14 release of all obligations for payment to the United States Department of Transportation
- 1.15 related to the termination of Northstar.
- 1.16 Subd. 3. Contingent termination. If the council obtains a waiver or release of federal
- 1.17 payment obligations as provided in subdivision 2:
- 1.18 (1) the council must decommission and permanently terminate all services related to
- 1.19 Northstar, including stopping all passenger service, closing all stations, and ending law
- 1.20 enforcement services provided by the Metropolitan Transit Police along the route;

(2) the commissioner and the council must terminate all memorandums of understanding, joint powers agreements, contracts, or any other agreement entered into with any public or private entity pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections 174.82 and 473.4057, for the planning, development, construction, operation, or maintenance of Northstar to the fullest extent permissible without a breach under the agreements;

(3) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 473.4057, subdivision 5, the commissioner must immediately terminate any lease, license, assignment, right of access, or other agreement provided to the council to develop, operate, and maintain Northstar;

(4) the council must convey ownership in any real or personal property related to Northstar that was previously owned and conveyed by the commissioner or Department of Transportation under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.4057, subdivision 5, back to the commissioner; and

(5) the council and the commissioner must sell or otherwise dispose of all assets related to Northstar, including but not limited to equipment, supplies, materials, rolling stock, facilities, improvements, personal property, and real property, which must be conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 16B.2975.

Subd. 4. **Appropriation cancellation.** Any unspent funds remaining from the fiscal year 2020 general fund appropriation under Laws 2019, First Special Session chapter 3, article 1, section 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), for the project to extend Northstar are canceled to the general fund.

Subd. 5. **Deposit of available funds.** On or before June 30, 2029, the commissioner and the council must deposit the following in the general fund:

(1) any revenue received under subdivision 3; and

(2) if the council obtains a waiver or release of federal payment obligations as provided in subdivision 2, the amount of general fund appropriations to the council and the commissioner that would otherwise be anticipated to be expended for Northstar in that fiscal year, absent the requirements of this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION. This section is effective the day following final enactment and applies in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington.