

State of Minnesota

H. F. No. **617**

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to transportation; requiring a pilot program for organic road salt additives

1.3 for protection of waters and infrastructure.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **WATERS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION.**

1.6 **Subdivision 1. Implementation.** As provided in this section, the commissioner of

1.7 transportation must implement a pilot program on the use of organic additives to control

1.8 ice on public roads to reduce application of salt and chemicals that contribute to the

1.9 deterioration of transportation infrastructure and to chloride pollution in lakes, rivers, and

1.10 groundwater.

1.11 **Subd. 2. Program elements.** At a minimum, the pilot program must:

1.12 (1) identify and utilize methods to reduce the application of salt and chemicals through

1.13 expanded use of organic additives, including but not limited to beet juice, that promote

1.14 surface adhering and reduce the freezing point of applied substances;

1.15 (2) examine results from expanded use of organic additives, including but not limited

1.16 to potential environmental and fiscal impacts;

1.17 (3) develop best practices and technical guidelines to expand the use of organic additives;

1.18 (4) convey program information and guidance to local road authorities;

1.19 (5) use organic additives in at least five test locations, each containing (i) transportation

1.20 infrastructure that is likely to experience deterioration from application of salt and chemicals,

1.21 and (ii) a body of water at high risk of chloride pollution; and

2.1 (6) include collaboration with at least one local road authority.

2.2 Subd. 3. **Legislative report.** By August 31, 2021, the commissioner must submit a report
2.3 on the pilot program to the members and staff of the legislative committees with jurisdiction
2.4 over transportation policy and finance. At a minimum, the report must summarize pilot
2.5 program activity, review results, and identify steps for increasing statewide use of organic
2.6 additives.

2.7 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.