A bill for an act

relating to motor vehicles; clarifying definition of motor vehicle; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 65B.43, subdivision 2; 169.09, subdivision 5a.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 65B.43, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Motor vehicle.** "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle, other than a motorcycle or other vehicle with fewer than four wheels, which (a) is required to be registered pursuant to chapter 168, and (b) is designed to be self-propelled by an engine or motor for use primarily upon public roads, highways or streets in the transportation of persons or property, and includes a trailer with one or more wheels, when the trailer is connected to or being towed by a motor vehicle, in which case the combination of the single self-propelled vehicle and one or more trailers is considered a single motor vehicle for purposes of this definition.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 169.09, subdivision 5a, is amended to read:

Subd. 5a. **Driver deemed agent of owner.** ~~Whenever any~~ If a motor vehicle ~~shall be~~ is operated within this state~~, by any~~ by a person other than the owner, with the express or implied consent of the owner, ~~express or implied,~~ the operator ~~thereof shall,~~ in case of accident, ~~be~~ is deemed the agent of the owner of ~~such~~ the motor vehicle in ~~the~~ its operation ~~thereof~~. For a single self-propelled vehicle connected to or towing one or more trailers, the operator of the motor vehicle is deemed to be an agent of the owner of the self-propelled portion of the motor vehicle combination, and not an agent of the owner of the trailer portion of the motor vehicle combination.