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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 367

02/13/2025 Authored by Murphy, Gander, Allen and Knudsen
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy
02/19/2025 By motion, recalled and re-referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy
03/03/2025 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Judiciary Finance and Civil Law

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; authorizing an action for damages for highway obstruction;
1.3 imposing civil penalties; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,
1.4 chapter 169.

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

1.6 Section 1. 169.907 HIGHWAY OBSTRUCTION; CIVIL LIABILITY.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Definition. For purposes of this section, "person" includes an individual,
1.8 private entity, state agency, or political subdivision.

1.9 Subd. 2. Civil liability imposed. Whoever by an act or omission intentionally interferes
1.10 with, obstructs, or renders dangerous for passage any public highway is liable to an injured
1.11 person for damages arising from the injuries and reasonable attorney fees and costs.

1.12 Subd. 3. Relationship to criminal law; election of remedy. If an act is a violation of
1.13 this section and section 609.74, clause (2), a state agency or political subdivision may elect
1.14 its remedy by commencing either an action under this section or criminal prosecution under
1.15 section 609.74, clause (2). A state agency or political subdivision may bring only one type
1.16 of action under this subdivision and is precluded from bringing the other type of action for
1.17 the same conduct.

1.18 Subd. 4. Exemption. When carrying out duties imposed by law or contract, this section
1.19 does not apply to the actions of law enforcement or other emergency responders, road or
1.20 airport authorities, or utility officials or their agents, employees, or contractors.

1.21 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2025, and applies to causes
1.22 of action accruing on or after that date.