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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 3864

04/07/2016 Authored by Atkins

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

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to transportation; establishing an advisory working group to observe
1.3 and report on development of a passenger rail project between Rochester and
1.4 the Twin Cities.

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

1.6 Section 1. **ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT ADVISORY**
1.7 **WORKING GROUP.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "project" means the
1.9 planning, design, engineering, and construction, including environmental processes, land
1.10 acquisition, and federal agency interaction, of a potential privately financed passenger
1.11 high-speed rail line between the city of Rochester and a location in the Minneapolis-St.
1.12 Paul metropolitan area.

1.13 Subd. 2. **Purpose.** The high-speed rail project advisory working group is established
1.14 to examine issues related to the potential development of the project in order to ensure
1.15 affected landowners, area residents, and other stakeholders have the opportunity to engage
1.16 in public discussion related to various aspects of high-speed rail generally and specific
1.17 elements of the potential project, and so that:

1.18 (1) adequate public engagement opportunities are offered at a range of locations
1.19 along the project corridor and through various means of communication; and

1.20 (2) considerations related to taxpayer protections, landowner rights, potential
1.21 development processes, and associated contracts and agreements adequately manage risks
1.22 to the state and the public, including but not limited to risks associated with the project's
1.23 finances, right-of-way acquisition, environmental processes, and construction impacts.

2.1 Subd. 3. **Advisory working group membership.** (a) The high-speed rail project
2.2 advisory working group consists of 15 members, all of whom are voting members and
2.3 must be appointed within 60 days of the effective date of this section, as follows:

2.4 (1) two senators appointed by the Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee
2.5 on Rules and Administration of the senate;

2.6 (2) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the
2.7 house;

2.8 (3) two members appointed by the governor;

2.9 (4) the commissioner of transportation or the commissioner's designee;

2.10 (5) the commissioner of public safety or the commissioner's designee;

2.11 (6) one member who resides in the county of Dakota appointed by the Dakota
2.12 County Board;

2.13 (7) one member who resides in the county of Dodge appointed by the Dodge County
2.14 Board;

2.15 (8) one member who resides in the county of Goodhue appointed by the Goodhue
2.16 County Board;

2.17 (9) one member who resides in the county of Hennepin appointed by the Hennepin
2.18 County Board;

2.19 (10) one member who resides in the county of Olmsted appointed by the Olmsted
2.20 County Board;

2.21 (11) one member who resides in the county of Ramsey appointed by the Ramsey
2.22 County Board; and

2.23 (12) one member who represents the University of Minnesota appointed by the
2.24 Center for Transportation Studies.

2.25 (b) The advisory working group must elect from among its members a chair, and
2.26 may elect a cochair and any other officers the advisory working group determines are
2.27 necessary or convenient.

2.28 Subd. 4. **First meeting.** The University of Minnesota Center for Transportation
2.29 Studies must convene the first meeting of the advisory working group within 30 days
2.30 after all members are appointed.

2.31 Subd. 5. **Duties.** The advisory working group must examine and report to the
2.32 legislature annually by February 1 concerning its activities and developments regarding
2.33 the potential project. Items the advisory working group must report on include public
2.34 engagement processes, land acquisition activities, and relevant contracts and agreements
2.35 and the adequacy of each to protect the public from risks associated with the project.

3.1 Subd. 6. **Authorization.** The advisory working group may solicit gifts, grants, or
3.2 donations of any kind from any private or public source to carry out the purposes of this
3.3 section. All gifts, grants, or donations received by the advisory working group must be
3.4 deposited in a high-speed rail project account, which is established in the special revenue
3.5 fund. Money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner of transportation for a grant
3.6 to the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies to support the activities of
3.7 the advisory working group. When the advisory working group expires under subdivision
3.8 12, the commissioner of management and budget must transfer any money remaining in
3.9 the account to the private and public sources that provided the gift, grant, or donation.

3.10 Subd. 7. **Compensation.** Public members of the advisory working group must
3.11 not receive any compensation or per diem payments for participating in the advisory
3.12 working group.

3.13 Subd. 8. **Notification and administrative support.** The University of Minnesota
3.14 Center for Transportation Studies must provide meeting space, administrative support, and
3.15 staff support for the advisory working group, and must notify all entities responsible for
3.16 appointing members to the advisory working group of the effective date of this section.

3.17 Subd. 9. **Open Meeting Law.** Meetings of the advisory working group are subject
3.18 to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13D.

3.19 Subd. 10. **Report.** The advisory working group must report its findings and
3.20 any recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative
3.21 committees with jurisdiction over transportation policy and finance annually by February
3.22 1 until the advisory working group expires under subdivision 12.

3.23 Subd. 11. **Funding.** The costs of the advisory working group must be paid entirely
3.24 by nonstate sources that are deposited in the high-speed rail project account in the special
3.25 revenue fund.

3.26 Subd. 12. **Sunset.** This section expires June 30, 2020, or when the project
3.27 commences revenue operation or is abandoned, whichever occurs first.

3.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day after the commissioner of
3.29 transportation notifies the University of Minnesota that a request to begin negotiating for
3.30 use of right-of-way to construct a project has been received.