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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 995

02/09/2017 Authored by Runbeck  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Regional Governance Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to transportation; providing for grants for freight railroad preservation and  
1.3 improvement; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds; appropriating  
1.4 money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 222.50, by adding a subdivision.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 222.50, is amended by adding a subdivision  
1.7 to read:

1.8 Subd. 6a. Grants; freight railroad preservation and improvement. (a) The  
1.9 commissioner may make grants for freight railroad preservation and improvement as provided  
1.10 in this subdivision and for the purposes specified in subdivision 7.

1.11 (b) Eligible recipients of grant funds under this subdivision consist of: (1) railroad  
1.12 companies that are classified by federal law or regulation as Class II Railroads, Class II  
1.13 Rail Carriers, Class III Railroads, or Class III Carriers; (2) rail users; and (3) local units of  
1.14 government. An eligible recipient may receive funds regardless of a rail facility's ownership.

1.15 (c) When awarding grants, the commissioner must prioritize projects:

1.16 (1) identified under subdivision 7, paragraph (a), clauses (2) and (3);

1.17 (2) on segments experiencing low rail service use; and

1.18 (3) with applicants who commit more than 20 percent of total project cost from nonstate  
1.19 and nonfederal sources.

1.20 (d) A grant under this subdivision must not exceed 80 percent of the total project cost.

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

2.1       Sec. 2. **FREIGHT RAILROAD PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT;**  
2.2 **APPROPRIATION AND BOND SALE AUTHORIZATION.**

2.3       Subdivision 1. **Appropriation.** \$4,500,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund  
2.4 to the commissioner of transportation for freight railroad preservation and improvement  
2.5 grants under Minnesota Statutes, section 222.50, subdivision 6a.

2.6       Subd. 2. **Bond sale.** To provide the money appropriated in this section from the bond  
2.7 proceeds fund, the commissioner of management and budget shall sell and issue bonds of  
2.8 the state in an amount up to \$4,500,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect  
2.9 prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota  
2.10 Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

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