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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. **1809**

03/04/2021

Authored by Frederick

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

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to transportation; amending provisions relating to grants for local bridge
- 1.3 replacement or rehabilitation projects; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section
- 1.4 174.50, subdivisions 6d, 7.
- 1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 174.50, subdivision 6d, is amended to read:
- 1.7 Subd. 6d. **Major local bridges.** ~~For an appropriation made specifically for purposes of~~
- 1.8 ~~this subdivision,~~ The commissioner may make grants pursuant to this subdivision only if
- 1.9 an enacted appropriation specifically references this specific subdivision. The commissioner
- 1.10 must not make grants pursuant to this subdivision if an enacted appropriation references
- 1.11 this section generally. When authorized by this subdivision, the commissioner may make
- 1.12 ~~a grant under this section~~ to any political subdivision for replacement or rehabilitation of a
- 1.13 major local bridge ~~in which the grant award is~~ with a total project cost estimate of \$7,000,000
- 1.14 or more. If in any year money appropriated for local bridge replacement and rehabilitation
- 1.15 projects under this subdivision remains available after all identified and eligible projects
- 1.16 under this subdivision have been funded, the commissioner may use remaining funds to
- 1.17 make grants under this section for replacement or rehabilitation projects with a total project
- 1.18 cost estimate of less than \$7,000,000.
- 1.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to grants made
- 1.20 on or after that date.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 174.50, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

2.2 Subd. 7. **Bridge grant program; rulemaking.** (a) The commissioner of transportation
2.3 shall develop rules, procedures for application for grants, conditions of grant administration,
2.4 standards, and criteria as provided under subdivision 6, including bridge specifications, in
2.5 cooperation with road authorities of political subdivisions, for use in the administration of
2.6 funds appropriated to the commissioner and for the administration of grants to subdivisions.
2.7 Grants under this section are subject to the procedures and criteria established in this
2.8 subdivision and in subdivisions 5 and 6.

2.9 (b) The maximum use of standardized bridges is encouraged. Regardless of the size of
2.10 the existing bridge, a bridge or replacement bridge is eligible for assistance from the state
2.11 transportation fund if a hydrological survey indicates that the bridge or replacement bridge
2.12 must be ten feet or more in length.

2.13 (c) As part of the standards or rules, the commissioner shall, in consultation with local
2.14 road authorities, establish a minimum distance between any two bridges that cross over the
2.15 same river, stream, or waterway, so that only one of the bridges is eligible for a grant under
2.16 this section. As appropriate, the commissioner may establish exceptions from the minimum
2.17 distance requirement or procedures for obtaining a variance.

2.18 (d) Political subdivisions may use grants made under this section to construct or
2.19 reconstruct bridges, including but not limited to:

2.20 (1) matching federal aid grants to construct or reconstruct key bridges;

2.21 (2) paying the costs to abandon an existing bridge that is deficient and in need of
2.22 replacement but where no replacement will be made; and

2.23 (3) paying the costs to construct a road or street to facilitate the abandonment of an
2.24 existing bridge if the commissioner determines that the bridge is deficient, and that
2.25 construction of the road or street is more economical than replacement of the existing bridge.

2.26 (e) Funds appropriated to the commissioner from the Minnesota state transportation
2.27 fund shall be segregated from the highway tax user distribution fund and other funds created
2.28 by article XIV of the Minnesota Constitution.

2.29 (f) ~~Except as provided in subdivision 6d, the commissioner is prohibited from awarding~~
2.30 ~~a grant under this section for a local bridge replacement or rehabilitation project with a total~~
2.31 ~~project cost estimate of \$7,000,000 or more. The commissioner must maintain a local bridge~~
2.32 ~~project list that includes every project:~~

2.33 (1) that is a local bridge replacement or rehabilitation project;

3.1 (2) that has approved plans or is in the design process; and

3.2 (3) for which the county or city has hired a bridge consultant to develop the bridge plans
3.3 for approval by the department.

3.4 The list must include the total project cost estimate for each project. The commissioner
3.5 must update this list annually. The commissioner must publish the list on the department's
3.6 website.

3.7 ~~(g) Notwithstanding paragraph (f), the commissioner may award a grant under this~~
3.8 ~~section for a portion of a local bridge replacement or rehabilitation project with a total~~
3.9 ~~project cost estimate of \$7,000,000 or more if every other local bridge replacement or~~
3.10 ~~rehabilitation project on the commissioner's priority list with a total project cost estimate~~
3.11 ~~of less than \$7,000,000 has been fully funded. The commissioner is prohibited from awarding~~
3.12 a grant of \$7,000,000 or more under this section for a local bridge replacement or
3.13 rehabilitation project, except:

3.14 (1) for major local bridges as provided in subdivision 6d; or

3.15 (2) if every other local bridge replacement or rehabilitation project with a total project
3.16 cost estimate of \$7,000,000 or less on the local bridge project list required by paragraph (f)
3.17 has been fully funded.

3.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to grants made
3.19 on or after that date.