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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 3691

03/29/2016 Authored by Knoblach, Kelly, Theis, Hornstein, Howe and others  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Policy and Finance  
03/30/2016 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to mass transit; requiring initiation of negotiations to extend and modify  
1.3 Northstar commuter rail passenger service.

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

1.5 Section 1. NORTHSTAR CORRIDOR EXTENSION; NEGOTIATIONS.

1.6 The Governor's designee (State) must contact Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway  
1.7 (BNSF) to negotiate an extension of the Northstar Corridor between Big Lake and St.  
1.8 Cloud, subject to the following conditions:

1.9 (1) the Northstar Corridor will add at least one morning round trip departure  
1.10 between the St. Cloud Amtrak Depot and Big Lake Station with continuing service to  
1.11 Target Station each weekday, plus one evening round trip between Big Lake Station and  
1.12 St. Cloud Amtrak Depot that must begin at Target Station, with the departure and arrival  
1.13 times set so that approximately ten or more hours elapse between the morning departure  
1.14 and evening return each day for both round trips. The state may also negotiate weekend  
1.15 departures and arrivals between St. Cloud and Target Station;

1.16 (2) the state may negotiate for fewer round trip departures from Big Lake to Target  
1.17 Station each weekday, and fewer round trip departures on weekends;

1.18 (3) BNSF must continue to crew and dispatch all trains and provide other  
1.19 track-related services;

1.20 (4) the St. Cloud Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) must be responsible for  
1.21 fare collection in St. Cloud and must negotiate with Amtrak for using the Amtrak station.  
1.22 The MTC must negotiate an agreement with the Metropolitan Council, which must require  
1.23 approval by the city of St. Cloud, regarding the sharing of revenues and expenses related  
1.24 to the Amtrak station, fare collection, and advertising. This agreement must not allow

2.1 the MTC, city of St. Cloud, or other local government to enter into agreements on any  
2.2 subject other than the operation of the Northstar Corridor;

2.3 (5) the state may not commit to spend any state funds on capital expenditures;

2.4 (6) the state may not commit to spend any more state funds on operating costs than  
2.5 the total sum it and the Metropolitan Council have budgeted for the Northstar Corridor; and

2.6 (7) the state may negotiate with the federal government, counties and cities, or the  
2.7 Northstar Corridor Development Authority to provide additional funding for services  
2.8 necessary to extend the Northstar Corridor.