

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to motor vehicles; clarifying definition of motor vehicle; amending  
1.3 Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 65B.43, subdivision 2; 169.09, subdivision 5a.

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

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 65B.43, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.6 Subd. 2. **Motor vehicle.** "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle, other than a  
1.7 motorcycle or other vehicle with fewer than four wheels, which (a) is required to be  
1.8 registered pursuant to chapter 168, and (b) is designed to be self-propelled by an engine or  
1.9 motor for use primarily upon public roads, highways or streets in the transportation of  
1.10 persons or property, and includes a trailer with one or more wheels, when the trailer is  
1.11 connected to or being towed by a motor vehicle, in which case the combination of the  
1.12 single self-propelled vehicle and one or more trailers is considered a single motor vehicle  
1.13 for purposes of this definition.

1.14 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 169.09, subdivision 5a, is amended to read:

1.15 Subd. 5a. **Driver deemed agent of owner.** ~~Whenever any~~ If a motor vehicle  
1.16 ~~shall be~~ is operated within this state, ~~by any~~ by a person other than the owner, with the  
1.17 express or implied consent of the owner, ~~express or implied,~~ the operator ~~thereof shall,~~  
1.18 in case of accident, ~~be is~~ be deemed the agent of the owner of ~~such the~~ the motor vehicle in ~~the~~  
1.19 its operation thereof. For a single self-propelled vehicle connected to or towing one or  
1.20 more trailers, the operator of the motor vehicle is deemed to be an agent of the owner of  
1.21 the self-propelled portion of the motor vehicle combination, and not an agent of the owner  
1.22 of the trailer portion of the motor vehicle combination.