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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 1179

02/14/2019 Authored by Wolgamott, Hornstein, Bernardy, Theis, Hausman and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to transportation; capital investment; appropriating money for Northstar
1.3 Commuter Rail extension to St. Cloud; requiring a report; authorizing the sale and
1.4 issuance of state bonds.

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

1.6 Section 1. NORTHSTAR COMMUTER RAIL EXTENSION.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Appropriations; project assessment and development. (a) \$850,000
1.8 in fiscal year 2020 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of transportation
1.9 for assessment, analysis, and review of the project to extend Northstar Commuter Rail
1.10 service to the city of St. Cloud. This is a onetime appropriation.

1.11 (b) \$..... is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of
1.12 transportation for predesign and design to extend Northstar Commuter Rail service to the
1.13 city of St. Cloud.

1.14 (c) Any funds remaining following the uses specified in paragraph (b) are available for
1.15 one or more of the following: preliminary and final engineering; environmental analysis
1.16 and mitigation; land acquisition, including right-of-way and temporary or permanent
1.17 easements; and capital improvements to tracks, signals, and rail crossings.

1.18 (d) Following any necessary project development, the commissioner must seek to
1.19 commence negotiations with BNSF Railway Company regarding Northstar Commuter Rail
1.20 service extension.

1.21 Subd. 2. Legislative reports. (a) By October 1, 2020, the commissioner must submit a
1.22 report on the Northstar Commuter Rail extension project to the legislative committees with

2.1 jurisdiction over capital investment and transportation policy and finance. At a minimum,
2.2 the report must:

2.3 (1) provide a status overview of the project;

2.4 (2) identify a timeline with key remaining project development steps;

2.5 (3) summarize stakeholder and project partner engagement activities;

2.6 (4) review project finances, including cost estimates and anticipated sources and uses
2.7 of funds; and

2.8 (5) provide recommendations for legislative changes, if any.

2.9 (b) By October 1, 2021, the commissioner must submit a revised report with updates to
2.10 the information identified in paragraph (a).

2.11 Subd. 3. **Bond sale.** To provide the money appropriated in subdivision 1 from the bond
2.12 proceeds fund, the commissioner of management and budget shall sell and issue bonds of
2.13 the state in an amount up to \$..... in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect
2.14 prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota
2.15 Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

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