

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 2583

(SENATE AUTHORS: DRAZKOWSKI)

DATE
03/17/2025

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OFFICIAL STATUS
Introduction and first reading
Referred to Transportation

1.1A bill for an act

1.2relating to transportation; requiring Department of Transportation to publish certain

1.3notices and information for road easement projects; proposing coding for new law

1.4in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 160.

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

1.6Section 1. **[160.086] ROAD EASEMENT INFORMATION REQUIRED.**

1.7Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have

1.8the meanings given.

1.9(b) "Easement" means the acquisition or designation of private or public land for the

1.10purpose of constructing, maintaining, or improving public roads or related infrastructure.

1.11(c) "Minimum standards" means the minimum design standards specified for rural and

1.12suburban undivided roadways specified in Minnesota Rules, parts 8820.9920 and 8820.9926.

1.13(d) "Public report" means a publicly available written report outlining the justification

1.14and details for an easement.

1.15(e) "Road authority" means the commissioner for roads and highways under state

1.16jurisdiction and a county for roads and highways under a county's jurisdiction.

1.17Subd. 2. **Justification required for certain projects.** Before a relevant road authority

1.18proceeds with acquiring an easement for a road construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning

1.19project for a rural or suburban undivided roadway, the road authority must determine whether

1.20the project meets the commissioner's minimum standards. If the easement is used for the

1.21construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning of a roadway at a greater road width than

1.22specified in the minimum standards, the relevant road authority may only acquire the land

for drainage or road safety reasons. Before acquiring the easement and proceeding with the road construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning project, the road authority must:

(1) publish a public report that meets the requirements of subdivision 3; and

(2) provide justification for the easement at a public or county board hearing detailing where the easement is proposed to be acquired.

Subd. 3. **Public report requirements; format and accessibility; public comment.** (a)

The road authority's public report must include the following information:

(1) a clear description of the proposed easement, project scope, location, dimensions, and purpose; and

(2) a detailed description of the necessity of the proposed easement, including:

(i) safety concerns, including but not limited to the mitigation of traffic hazards, visibility issues, or any other motivation for the easement;

(ii) drainage concerns, such as alleviating flooding, improving water runoff or quality, or ensuring compliance with environmental standards; or

(iii) a statement explicitly declaring that no safety or drainage reasons exist for the easement.

(b) The road authority must prepare the public report free of excessive technical jargon, format the report for ease of public understanding, and publish the report on the road authority's website and project website where applicable. The public must be provided an opportunity to submit written comments on the proposed easement. A minimum of 30 days must be provided for public review and comment on the public report before any action is taken on the proposed easement.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2025, and applies to road construction projects on or after that date.