

LEGISLATIVE BILL 245

Approved by the Governor March 1, 2001

Introduced by Bromm, 23

AN ACT relating to rail transportation; to amend sections 74-1512 and 74-1514, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2000; to change dates relating to a report and termination of the Nebraska Transit and Rail Advisory Council Act; to provide restrictions on certain projects; to create a fund; to provide severability; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 74-1512, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2000, is amended to read:

74-1512. The council, with the assistance of the department, shall, not later than January 1, ~~2002~~ 2004, complete a study on the feasibility and projected costs of constructing a passenger rail, high-speed rail, or other passenger surface transportation system, with particular attention paid to the feasibility of other passenger surface transportation systems on a statewide basis, and report its findings to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature. Such report shall include suggested legislation necessary to implement the feasibility options included within the study for a passenger rail, high-speed rail, or other passenger surface transportation system.

Sec. 2. Section 74-1514, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2000, is amended to read:

74-1514. The Nebraska Transit and Rail Advisory Council Act terminates on June 30, ~~2003~~ 2005.

Sec. 3. The State of Nebraska shall not participate in any rail project or appropriate funds for any rail project proposed by the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact unless the specific project is authorized by the enactment of a legislative bill. For purposes of this section, rail project includes the planning phase of such a project.

Sec. 4. The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact Cash Fund is created and shall consist of money appropriated by the Legislature and gifts, grants, or bequests from any source, including federal, state, public, and private sources. The money shall be used to carry out passenger rail initiatives under the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 5. If any section in this act or any part of any section is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the declaration shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions.

Sec. 6. Original sections 74-1512 and 74-1514, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2000, are repealed.