

Subject Administrative citations for transit fare violations

Authors Elkins and Koznick

Analyst Matt Burress (matt.burress@house.mn)

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Overview

This bill modifies the penalty for some transit fare nonpayment violations, to allow issuance of an administrative citation as an alternative to a criminal citation administered through the judicial process.

An effect of the bill is to create two separate options to enforce fare-related violations: (1) as a misdemeanor, which is currently treated as a payable offense that could potentially follow a judicial process in the courts and that carries a fine and court surcharge totaling \$175 (with other fees potentially applying); or (2) through an administrative citation administered by the Metropolitan Council, with a fine amount that must be at least \$35 but is determined by the council, potentially with an escalating structure for failure to pay or repeat offenses. A single fare violation could only be enforced through one or the other of these options.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Unlawfully obtaining services; misdemeanor. Makes technical changes.
2	Definitions. Makes a clarifying change.
3	Administrative citations. Authorizes the Metropolitan Council to issue administrative citations for nonpayment of a transit fare. Specifies policy and process requirements, including to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">authorize peace officers as well as nonsworn authorized personnel to issue administrative citations;

Section	Description
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- prevent issuance of both an administrative citation and a criminal citation for a fare payment violation (so that only one or the other type of citation could be issued);
- authorize the Metropolitan Council to set a fine amount as well as a fine escalation structure, with a minimum of \$35;
- outline requirements for disposition of an administrative citation, which includes setting a 90-day window for a person to contest the citation, requiring a third-party contestation process, and allowing for specified alternatives to imposition of the fine;
- direct revenue collected from administrative citations to be used only for administrative citation costs; and
- prohibit administrative citation quotas.



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