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State of Minnesota HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 2437

April 19, 2007

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to drivers' licenses; requiring study of driver's license vision-screening
1.3 standards.

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

1.5 Section 1. DRIVERS' LICENSE VISION-SCREENING STUDY.

1.6 (a) The commissioner of public safety shall conduct a study on visual acuity
1.7 examinations, requirements, and standards for issuance of a driver's license or permit.

1.8 The study must include:

1.9 (1) analysis and review of current findings from medical research literature and
1.10 recommendations from the medical community on visual acuity examinations for a
1.11 driver's license or permit;

1.12 (2) evaluation of alternative options for visual acuity examinations, including but not
1.13 limited to (i) alternatives or additions to the Snellen examination procedure for measuring
1.14 visual acuity, including but not limited to special road examinations and examinations of
1.15 peripheral vision, contrast sensitivity, judgment of distance, or useful field of view, (ii)
1.16 recommended best practices, and (iii) efficacy of alternative options in assuring public
1.17 safety, including costs and potential safety benefits;

1.18 (3) comparison of visual acuity examinations, requirements, and standards in
1.19 Minnesota with those of other states, and an analysis of relevant trends in other states;

1.20 (4) evaluation of current visual acuity examinations, requirements, and standards in
1.21 Minnesota, including but not limited to current visual acuity requirements and the process
1.22 of appeal and medical review by the department of public safety; and

1.23 (5) recommendations for any changes to current law and practices on visual acuity
1.24 examinations, requirements, and standards.

2.1 (b) The commissioner shall submit a report on the results of the study by February
2.2 1, 2008, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and
2.3 senate committees with jurisdiction over transportation finance and policy.

2.4 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day after final enactment.