



METRO CITIES-STATEMENT OF POLICY POSITIONS

HF 691 – State Government Finance Omnibus Bill

As background, Metro Cities represents cities in the seven county metropolitan area at the Legislature and Metropolitan Council. Metro Cities' policy positions with respect to regional (Metropolitan Council) governance were recommended by a 17-member task force of city officials from throughout the metropolitan area.

- Metro Cities opposes the elimination of the Legislative Water Commission (HF 691 A-17, Line 68.5).

The Legislative Water Commission provides a venue in which the Legislature can develop strong expertise and provide focused attention to emerging water related issues that may have significance for state and local governments, businesses and residents across the state. The issues and challenges around water are often highly complex, and involve multiple stakeholders, and funding issues. Having a specific commission focused on these issues helps to ensure that legislative consideration of water related policy and funding issues is undertaken with appropriate study, vetting and input by affected stakeholders. For these reasons, Metro Cities opposes the repeal of the Legislative Water Commission.