

H.F. 2451

As amended by H2451A1

Subject Office of Administrative Hearings

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Date March 24, 2025

Overview

This bill would change the name of the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) to the Court of Administrative Hearings and authorize OAH to grant a state agency's timely and complete request for remand of an OAH finding of fact, conclusion of law, or recommendation in a contested case proceeding. Under current law and this bill, a contested case proceeding occurs when an individual or business challenges an agency action, such as a license suspension or corrective action order.

H.F. 2451 also repeals two sections of statute pertaining to fair campaign practices that were ruled unconstitutional in federal court.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Creation. Changes OAH's name to the Court of Administrative Hearings.
2	Chief administrative law judge. Changes "office" to "court."
3	Writing required. Provides that an agency request for remand under section 5 must be supported by the agency's reasoning.
4	Administrative law judge decision final; exception. Provides that an OAH order or report is not the final decision in the case if the agency requests remand under section 5.
5	Agency request for remand. Authorizes agencies to request remand of an OAH finding of fact, conclusion of law, or recommendation within 45 days. Requires the agency to state with specificity the

Section	Description
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| | reasons for the request and provide supporting information. Requires OAH to accept a request for remand in certain circumstances. Allows OAH to accept a request for other reasons as justice requires and consistent with the purposes of the Administrative Procedures Act. Requires the chief judge or their designee, upon accepting an agency request for remand, to assign an administrative law judge to conduct further proceedings. |
| 6 | Revisor instruction.
Requires the Revisor of Statutes to change OAH to the Court of Administrative Hearings as needed in Minnesota Statutes. |
| 7 | Repealer.
Repeals two sections in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 211B (Fair Campaign Practices) that have been found unconstitutional by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8 th Circuit. |



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2025 BILL SUMMARY

HF2451/SF2236

Name Change

Section 1 changes the name of the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) to Court of Administrative Hearings (CAH).

This proposal reflects the court's growth as an independent place within the executive branch where people come to resolve their disagreements. This change also reflects the same naming convention and enacting terminology as the other executive branch courts: (1) Tax Court and (2) Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals.

The court was created by the legislature in 1975 to adjudicate administrative hearings. Originally named the Office of Hearing Examiners, the court opened its doors on January 1, 1976, to hear cases involving challenges to government action. The court's jurisdiction has grown, for example:

- In 1981, received jurisdiction over workers' compensation.
- In 2004, received jurisdiction over cases involving fair campaign practices and financial reporting violations.
- In 2005, received jurisdiction over municipal boundary adjustment matters.
- In 2010, received limited jurisdiction over data practices compliance.
- In 2023, received jurisdiction over cannabis regulatory action.

Sections 2 and 6 concern updating references to the "office" to refer to the "court" in statute.

Remand

Sections 3, 4, and 5 codify an opportunity for remand when such action protects due process. "Remand" means to send a case back to the court for further action.

If an agency requests remand within 45 days following the close of the hearing record, the court must accept the request within 10 business days if (1) the agency rejects a recommendation to grant summary disposition; (2) a party who had procedurally defaulted during the administrative proceedings seeks to participate; or (3) following remand from the Minnesota Court of Appeals or Minnesota Supreme Court, or identification of a mathematical or clerical error, the agency identifies a need for additional proceedings before the Court of Administrative Hearings.

The court may accept a request for remand at any other time for other reasons as justice requires and consistent with the purposes of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Repealer

Section 7 repeals claims of action that have been identified by higher courts as not constitutional.