

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 202

**SESSION:** 2008 Regular Session

**TOPIC:** Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps

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## Overview

This act provides liability, workers' compensation, and death compensation coverage for health professionals that volunteer through the Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps.

### Section

- 1 Volunteer protections.** Amends § 12.22, subd. 2a. Requires that Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corp volunteers that respond at the request of the commissioner of health must receive state workers' compensation and tort claim defense and indemnification.
- 2 Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps; planning.** Amends § 145A. 04 by adding subd. 6a. Requires certain boards of health to participate in planning for emergency use of volunteer health professionals through the Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps program.
- 3 Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps; agreements.** Amends § 145A. 04 by adding subd. 6b. Provides that boards of health participating in the Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps program may enter into written mutual aid agreements with other boards of health in the state, and with similar agencies on tribal lands, in bordering states, and with Canada.
- 4 Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps; when mobilized.** Amends § 145A. 04 by adding subd. 6c. Directs boards of health to use mutual aid agreements when the needed response to a public health event exceeds that board's capacity. Permits boards of health to request that the commissioner of health mobilize Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps volunteers from outside the board's jurisdiction an event exceeds mutual aid capacities.

- 5 **Health volunteer program.** Amends § 145A.06 by adding subd. 6. (a) Permits the commissioner of health to accept federal grants for emergency system for the advanced registration of volunteer health professionals (ESAR-VHP), and states the this program in Minnesota is the Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps program.
- (b) Permits the commissioner to maintain a registry of Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and requires that the licensing boards and certification boards cooperate with the program to verify volunteers' licensure.
- (c) Permits data sharing for purposes of credentialing, organizing, training, and deploying volunteers. Permits the commissioner to share volunteers' data with other states or Canada as needed for emergency preparedness and response.
- 6 **Request to commissioner for health volunteers.** Amends § 145A.06 by adding subd.7. Requires that the commissioner determine whether a request for volunteers is in the public interest and, when it is, the commissioner may ask the Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps to respond. Provides certain requirements of the commissioner related to volunteer deployments and coordinating responses among entities
- Requires that volunteers must be considered state employees when deployed by the commissioner and provides certain protections for the volunteers, including workers' compensation coverage, and tort claim defense and indemnification. Requires that these volunteers' be reimbursed for certain expenses during deployment.
- 7 **Volunteer health practitioners licensed in other states.** Amends § 145A.06 by adding subd. 8. Permits health practitioners licensed in other states to practice in Minnesota during an emergency under certain requirements. Limits liability protections for certain volunteers.
- 8 **Employee.** Amends § 176.011, subd. 9. Modifies the definition of "employee" in the workers' compensations chapter by including a Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps volunteer in certain circumstances.
- 9 **Interstate assistance by Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps.** Adds §192.90.
- Subd. 1. Status as officer or employees.** Permits the states authorized representative under the Interstate Emergency Management Assistance Compact to request Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps volunteers in certain circumstances. States that for deployments within this scope, the volunteers must be considered officers or employees of the state.
- Subd. 2. Workers' compensation benefits.** Provides certain protections for volunteers deployed under these circumstances, including workers' compensation.
- Subd. 3. Limitation.** Limits the purposes for which a Minnesota Responds Medical Reserve Corps volunteer may be considered an officer or employee of the state.
- 10 **Interstate assistance by local governments.** Adds § 192.91. Permits local governments to provide interstate assistance, and classifies employees and officers of local governments as "employees of the state" when such persons provide assistance under section 192.89. Provides a limitation to liability for a local government and its officers and employees that provide assistance under section 192.89.
- 11 **Effective date.** Provides an immediate effective date for this act.