

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 300

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**TOPIC:** Jobs and economic development

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**Analyst:** Anita Neumann, 651-296-5056

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## Overview

This is a jobs and economic development policy bill.

### Section

- 1** **Public official.** Adds the director of Explore Minnesota Tourism to the list of public officials under Chapter 10.
- 2** **Construction debris as cover material prohibited.** Prohibits construction debris or residuals from processed construction debris that contains gypsum, to be managed as cover material at disposal facilities, except in specified circumstances. Defines "residual material" for purposes of the section.
- 3** **State approval of government procurement agreements.** Provides that any state decision to enter into government procurement agreements relating to United States trade agreements must be approved by the Governor and the Legislature.
- 4** **Trade policy advisory group.** Establishes the trade policy advisory group to advise and assist the Governor and Legislature regarding government procurement agreements of United States trade agreements.
- 5** **Military reservist economic injury loans.** Authorizes the commissioner of employment and economic development to make onetime, interest free loans of up to \$20,000 each to eligible businesses impacted by a call to active service of at least 180 days by an essential employee.
- 6** **Dislocated workers.** Adds a veteran discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions within the last 36 months and who is unemployed or under employed to the definition of dislocated worker.

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- 7 Use of funds.** Directs that dislocated worker fund money may be used for training in personal services and other similar industries.
- 8 Workplace communications.** Specifies that chapter 179A, the Public Employees Labor Relations Act, shall not prohibit collective bargaining agreement provisions dealing with workplace communication.
- 9 Officers, staff.** Adds the Combative Sports Commission to the list of boards and employees under Chapter 214 provisions that generally provide for classified and unclassified service coverage.
- 10 General rule.** Removes the reference to additional benefits in the current law provision that lists what benefits are to be used to compute an employer's tax rate.
- 11 Exceptions for all employers.** Provides an additional exception from the employer charge back provision for benefits paid to an applicant who was a replacement for a worker called to active military duty.
- 12 Payments that delay benefits.** Adds vacation pay paid from a vacation fund administered by a union or a third party not under the control of the employer to the list of payments not offset from unemployment benefits.
- 13 Business owners.** Applies the use of wage credits for unemployment benefits for an employer's family members if the applicant had wages paid of \$7,500 from the employer in each of the previous 16 calendar quarters.
- 14 Actively seeking work.** Specifies that an applicant who is a union member restricted to obtaining work from signatory contractors in the construction industry who is seeking employment only with signatory contractors is considered to be actively seeking work.
- 15 Additional benefits.** Provides for an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to workers laid off due to lack of work in counties where the unemployment rate is 1.8 times the state average. Applies only if the state average unemployment rate was at least 4.6 percent. Benefits are available through June 30, 2009.
- 16 Payments from trust fund.** Specifies that additional benefits are not chargeable to employers.
- 17 Eligibility conditions.** Sets for the eligibility requirements for additional benefits.
- 18 Notice requirements.** Directs the commissioner of DEED to notify applicants of the availability of additional benefits.
- 19 Journeyman certificate.** Amends the provision exempting persons maintaining or repairing a fire protection system that is located in a facility regulated by the federal Mine Occupational Safety and Health Act by removing the specification that the system use low pressure water.
- 20 Definitions.** Provides definitions related to all aspects of the combative sports realm.
- 21 Combative sports commission.** Renames the Boxing Commission as the Combative Sports Commission and specifies that at least four members of the nine member board must have knowledge of the boxing industry. Four members must have knowledge of the mixed martial arts industry.
- 22 Limitations.** Technical change to conform to the Combative Sports Commission rather than Boxing Commission.
- 23 Rules.** Authorizes the commissioner to adopt the rules of the Association of Boxing Commissions with amendments.
- 24 Meetings.** Provides for the procedures and formats for meetings conducted by the commission.
- 25 Commission duties.** Directs the commission to immediately suspend an individual license

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for a medical condition confirmed by a ringside physician and to evaluate the performance and compensation of the commission director.

- 26 Gift authority.** Allows the commission to accept gifts and other public or private money.
- 27 Regulation.** Provides for the regulation of all professional and combative sports and professional boxing contests.
- 28 Jurisdiction of commission.** Grants the commission the sole authority over combative sports contests held in the state.
- 29 Licensure requirements.** Provides the licensure requirements for combative sports including required medical tests.
- 30 Licenses.** Requires annual licensure for combative sports participants.
- 31 Fee schedule.** Sets the fee schedule for professional and amateur licenses for combative sports participants.
- 32 Physical examinations required.** Adds combative sports to the current physical examination requirements that previously applied to boxers.
- 33 Required insurance.** Includes all combative sport participants in the life and health insurance requirements, and lowers the current requirement of at least \$20,000 coverage to at least \$10,000.
- 34 Non-licensed contests.** Provides for penalties for non-licensed combative sports contests.
- 35 Penalties.** Provides for a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation.
- 36 Appropriation.** Technical change to conform to newly named Combative Sports Commission.
- 37 Program administration.** Amends § 446A.072, subdivision 3, of the Public Facilities Authority statute by modifying provisions related to the funding priorities for wastewater infrastructure projects.
- 38 Type and amount of assistance.** Amends § 446A.072, subdivision 5a. Increases the maximum amount the Public Facility Authority may grant to a governmental unit receiving grant funding from the USDA/RECD from one-half to 65 percent of the eligible grant need determined by USDA/RECD.
- 39 State may guarantee governmental unit building debt; repayment.** Amends § 446A.086. Allows bonds to be under the state's repayment guarantee and makes a number of technical changes to accommodate this change. Limits the amount of debt authorized to \$500,000,000.
- 40 Credit enhanced bond program.** Amends § 446A.087.

**Subd. 1. Establishment of program.** Establishes a credit enhanced bond program.

**Subd. 2. Purpose.** States that the purpose of the program is to provide loans to governmental units funded by the purchase of general obligation bonds of governmental units. Requires that the program provide credit enhancement through the state's repayment guarantee under section 446A.086.

**Subd. 3. Definitions.** Defines terms for purposes of this section.

**Subd. 4. Establishment of fund and accounts.** Establishes a credit enhancement bond program fund.

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**Subd. 5. Management of fund and accounts.** Requires the PFA to manage and administer the fund.

**Subd. 6. Applications.** Requires applicants to the program to submit an application to the PFA and sets minimum requirements for the application. Requires the executive director of the PFA to review the applications and determine if they should be accepted or rejected. States that the PFA is not required to accept any application. Allows the PFA to require an applicant to provide a commitment to the PFA and allows the PFA to reject an approved application for failure by the applicant to provide the commitment in time.

**Subd. 7. Loans terms and conditions.** Establishes the terms and conditions of the loans issued under this section.

**Subd. 8. Interest rate determination.** Establishes requirements for determining the rate of interest on the loans.

**Subd. 9. Market considerations.** Allows the PFA to suspend offering loans if there are unusual or extreme market conditions.

**Subd. 10. Fees.** Requires the PFA to charge a \$1,000 nonrefundable application fee for the program and an ongoing periodic fee of ten basis points of the outstanding principal amount of the loan which shall be added to the interest rate on the general obligation bonds of the borrower.

**Subd. 11. Authority revenue bonds.** Allows the PFA to issue revenue bonds to fund the program and establishes guidelines for issuing the bonds.

**Subd. 12. Reports, disclosure, audits.** Requires a borrower to issue written reports to the PFA during the term of the loan as specified by the PFA and include any information that would affect the creditworthiness of the borrower. Requires a borrower to submit annual financial statements to the PFA that have been independently audited.

- 41 Bonding authority.** Amends § 446A.12, subdivision 1. Limits the total amount for bonds issued under the credit enhanced bond program (established in section 4) to \$500,000,000 excluding any bonds for which refunding bonds or crossover refunding bonds have been issued.
- 42 Debt ceiling.** Establishes a \$5,000,000,000 debt ceiling on the aggregate principal amount of Minnesota Housing Finance Agency bonds and notes outstanding at any time.
- 43 Transit improvement area accounts.** Creates two transit improvement area accounts for purposes of the Transit Improvement Area Loan Program. Specifies that money may not be used to pay for the operation of transit lines or the construction or operating costs of transit stations.
- 44 Transit improvement area loan program.** Provides that a transit improvement area must increase the effectiveness of a transit project by incorporating one or more public transit modes with commercial, residential, or mixed-use development and by providing for safe and pedestrian-friendly use. Authorizes the commissioner of employment and economic

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development, in consultation with affected state and regional agencies, to designate transit improvement areas. Specifies the application requirements for designation.

Applicants are required to adopt a transit area improvement plan by resolution before submitting an application. Specifies the information that each plan must include. Provides unique requirements for plans with a residential component.

Authorizes the commissioner to make loans to eligible organizations for the eligible costs. Provides that a loan must be used for a designated transit improvement area and specifies the terms. Loans may not exceed \$2,000,000. Requires an eligible organization that receives a loan to provide an annual report to the commissioner.

- 45** **Removal of area.** Extends the period during which a local government unit can elect to not be included within the central iron range sanitary sewer district from 60 to 180 days after adoption of the first comprehensive plan.
- 46** **Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer District.** Completes local approval of 2002 and 2003 Laws establishing the Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer District. Validates all actions taken by the district upon local approval.
- 47** **Bioscience subsidy.** Requires any project financed with public resources to document its benefit to consumers in the form of more affordable pricing of the products or services being subsidized.
- 48** **Initial administration.** Directs the commissioner of employment and economic development to convene the initial organization meeting of the trade policy advisory group. Requires appointments and designations to be complete by September 30, 2008.
- 49** **Minnesota vacation rental lodging study.** Directs Explore Minnesota Tourism to conduct a vacation rental lodging study and to provide a report to the legislature.
- 50** **Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council; recommendations required.** Requires the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council to provide a recommendation to the legislature on modifications to the additional unemployment insurance provisions to better meet the needs of the changing workforce. Specifies the considerations that must be addressed in determining benefit entitlement.
- 51** **Revisor's Instruction; unemployment insurance.** Contains a Revisor's instruction regarding reorganization and technical changes.
- 52** **Repealer.** Repeals Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 341.31, authorizing simulcast licenses for the boxing commission.