

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 3

SESSION: 2015 Regular Session

TOPIC: Agency head salaries; deficiency appropriations

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Overview

Provides that, effective July 2, 2015, salaries recommended by the governor for agency heads are subject to approval of the Legislative Coordinating Commission (or a subcommittee established by the LCC) and the full legislature. Provides additional funding in the biennium ending June 30, 2015, for the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Zoo.

Governor Dayton signed this act into law on February 26, 2015.

Section

- 1 Other salaries and compensation plans.** Effective July 2, 2015, gives the Legislative Coordinating Commission (or a subcommittee established by the LCC) authority to approve, reject, or modify the governor's recommendations for agency head salaries, subject to eventual approval by the full legislature.
- 2 Salary limits.** Effective July 2, 2015, provides that salaries set by the governor for agency heads are subject to approval of the LCC and the full legislature.
- 3 Determining individual salary.** Effective July 2, 2015, provides that before agency head salaries recommended by the governor take effect, the recommendations must be reviewed and approved, rejected, or modified by the LCC and the legislature, under the process in current law for legislative review of collective bargaining agreements, compensation plans, and certain other salaries.

Section

- 4** **Agency head salary freeze.** Effective February 27, 2015, provides that the salary rate for agency head salaries in section 15A.0815, for positions appointed by the governor, may not be set at a salary rate in excess of the previous calendar year.
- 5** **Department of Human Services.** Appropriates \$10,683,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the Minnesota Food Assistance Program (\$246,000) and the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter (\$10,437,000). Provides that this is a onetime appropriation.
- 6** **Department of Natural Resources.** Appropriates \$568,000 to the commissioner of natural resources for law enforcement activities. The total appropriation amount is comprised of specified appropriations from the general fund (\$69,000), the natural resources fund (\$128,000), and the game and fish fund (\$371,000). Provides that this is a onetime appropriation.
- 7** **Department of Health.** Appropriates \$2,891,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for costs of statewide Ebola activities and for grants to certain hospitals for Ebola-related expenditures. Provides that this is a onetime appropriation.
- 8** **Zoological Board.** Appropriates \$1,350,000 from the general fund to the Zoological Board (Minnesota Zoo) for zoo operations. Provides that this is a onetime appropriation. Requires reports on April 1, 2015, and December 15, 2015, on the Zoo's financial plan to ensure long-term financial stability and success.
- 9** **Budget reductions.** Requires the commissioner of management and budget to make specified reductions in previously enacted general fund appropriations for fiscal year 2015 to the Departments of Health, Human Services, and Natural Resources. Provides that to the extent possible, these reductions must be allocated to the agency appropriation that supports that agency's commissioner's salary. Provides that these are onetime reductions.
- 10** **Effective date.** Sections 1 to 3 (agency head salaries) are effective July 2, 2015. Section 4 (agency head salary freeze) is effective February 27, 2015, and applies through June 30, 2015. Sections 5 to 9 (deficiency appropriations) are effective February 27, 2015.