HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: S. F. 884 **DATE:** March 22, 2000
Version: Delete Everything Amendment

Authors: Harder and others

Subject: Reduced marriage license fee for premarital counseling

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1 **Term of license; fee; premarital education.** Provides a $45 marriage license fee for couples who receive at least 12 hours of premarital education from a clergy member or designee, a person authorized by law to perform marriages, or a marriage and family therapist. Qualified education must include the seriousness of marriage, conflict management skills, and the desirability of obtaining counseling for marriage difficulties.

Raises the marriage license fee in other cases from $70 to $95.

2 **Disposition of license fee.** License fees for those who do not do premarital education would be distributed as follows:

$15 to the county,

$75 to the state general fund,

$3 to supervised visitation centers,

$2 to MN ENABL (teenage pregnancy prevention).

License fees from those who take premarital education will be distributed as follows:

$15 to the county,

$25 to the state general fund,

$3 to supervised visitation centers,

$2 to MN ENABL (teenage pregnancy prevention).

Under current law, the license fee is $70. The county keeps $15. The state general fund gets $50. The rest is divided $3/$2 between supervised visitation centers and MN ENABL.