

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 338

DATE: March 8, 1999

Version: First engrossment

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Subject: Creating an emergency management grant program for counties and cities

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Overview

This bill establishes an emergency management grant program to provide counties and cities grants to enhance the effectiveness of their emergency management offices and appropriates money for the grant program.

1 Emergency management grant program.

Subd. 1. Grant program. Establishes an emergency management grant program to provide counties and cities grants to help them enhance the effectiveness of their emergency management offices.

Subd. 2. Program development. Requires the state director of the emergency management division to consult with the association of Minnesota emergency managers in developing the grant program.

Subd. 3. Eligibility. Specifies what a county or city must do to be eligible for a grant:

- employ a county or city emergency manager who is certified by the state director;
- submit a written plan on how the grant will enhance the county or city emergency management office; and
- apply for and be approved for the grant before spending money on the enhancements.

Subd. 4. Grant application. Requires a grant application to be submitted according to established procedures and to include a specific plan description. Provides for the state director to approve the grant application if the application is adequate and there are funds. Allows the state director to require plan changes or to reject a grant application.

Subd. 5. Qualifying uses. Provides for the state director to determine if the plan will enable the county or city to enhance the effectiveness of its emergency management office. Permits a city or county to use the money to train the local office director.

Subd. 6. Grant amount. (a) Grants may not exceed the lesser of: (1) the amount requested in

the application, or

(2) the county's or city's share of program funds. A county's or city's share is based on population.

(b) Permits only one-half of the counties and cities eligible under each population category in (a) (2) to be awarded grants. Requires grants to be served on a first-come-first-served basis. A county or city not receiving a grant is eligible for priority the next year.

(c) Permits the state director, after a time to be determined by the state director, to reallocate undistributed funds to other qualifying cities and counties.

(d) Requires use of latest federal census data to determine county or city population.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the commissioner of public safety for the grant program under section 1.