

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Authors:** Mares and Holsten

**Subject:** City housing assistance for volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel

**Analyst:** Wendy Simons, 651-296-5052

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This bill would give a statutory city authority to provide housing assistance in the city for one or more volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel for the purposes of attracting and retaining personnel to provide timely public safety services. The need for the assistance must be established and approved at a public hearing. Legislation is necessary to allow cities to do this, based upon a February 2001 opinion by the state Attorney General reaffirming a 1952 opinion by that office which held that the city of Newport did not have the specific authority to provide living quarters for its police chief unless the legislature had granted such specific authority, even though providing such housing "would be desirable as well as beneficial."