

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Kandiyohi and Willmar joint economic development authority

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Background

Cities have long had the authority to form economic development authorities under general law, while counties have had to seek special legislation in order to form an EDA. The 2000 legislature enacted general legislation giving nonmetropolitan counties the authority to establish EDAs after following a process set out in statute.

Section

- 1** **Kandiyohi county and city of Willmar; powers.** Allows Kandiyohi county to form a county economic development authority (EDA) with the same powers as a city EDA, and for the county and the city of Willmar to enter into a joint powers agreement to jointly exercise any of the powers both possess under EDA statutes.
- 2** **Special taxing district.** Provides that the joint powers entity formed under section 1 is a special taxing district with the power to levy property taxes up to the EDA levy limit (0.01813 percent of taxable market value), and that any levy by the joint owners entity replaces the EDA levies for Kandiyohi county and Willmar.
- 3** **Effective date; no local approval required.** Effective the day following final enactment. Requires no local approval because the bill would "enable one or more local government units to exercise authority not granted by general law."